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NEARBY

CM seeks fair rain relief as per Central norms

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the State government has prepared a memorandum on rain damage estimate meticulously and transparently and the Centre must be recommended to release "a fair compensation" to Karnataka as per the Central guidelines.

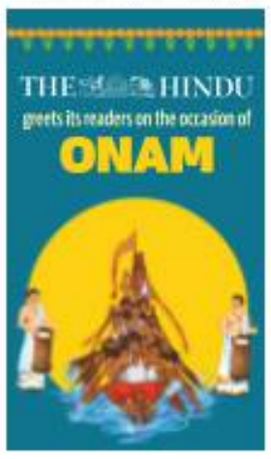
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

CBI to probe case against Adikeshavulu's son

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has transferred to the CBI further investigation into cases related to murder of a real estate businessman in which D.A. Srinivas, 48, son of the late D.K. Adikeshavulu, is the prime accused.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4



Leading Bharat Yatra, Rahul calls for defending Tricolour

Former Congress chief says the National Flag and its values are under attack

SANDEEP PHUKAN
KANNIYAKUMARI

The National Flag and the values it embodied are under attack from the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which not only divide people on the basis of religion and language but also treat the Tricolour as their "personal property", former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said here on Wednesday, formally launching the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"This flag guarantees every single person Indian protection in this country. It guarantees every single person a free and fair life in this country. It guarantees everybody the right to practise every religion, to speak every language that one desires. And today, brothers and sisters, this flag is under attack," Mr. Gandhi said at a public meeting.

"Please remember it is not enough to just salute the flag, it is important to defend the ideas and the values behind the flag," he added.

Tour of India: Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders at a public meeting in Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu ahead of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on Wednesday. • A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

'Headed for bad times'

The former Congress chief said India was facing its worst-ever economic crisis, along with the highest unemployment rate ever and "the country is headed towards a disaster and bad times".

The 3,500-km Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir *padayatra* (foot march), to be spread over five months across 12 States and two Union Territories, is the most ambitious project of the Congress to reconnect with the masses and recover its lost political ground of the past.

The Congress has not only lost two successive Lok Sabha elections (in 2014 and 2019) but also 39 of the 49 Assembly elections in the past eight years.

"This is a landmark occasion for our great party with such a glorious legacy – the Indian National Congress. I am confident that our organisation will be rejuvenated. It is also a transformational moment in Indian politics," party president Sonia Gandhi said in a speech that was read out in the rally.

Stalin hands flag

The actual *padayatra* from the southernmost tip of the Indian mainland will start on Thursday but it was launched with the symbolic gesture of DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handing over the National Flag to Mr. Gandhi and then the leaders saluting the Tricolour to convey the theme of unity.

"Today, my brother Rahul Gandhi has begun a journey to retrieve India's soul, to uphold the lofty ideals of our Republic and to unite our country's people with love. There can be no better place than Kanniyakumari, where the Statue of Equality stands tall, to start the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Mr. Stalin said in a tweet.

Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart, Bhupesh Baghel, and other senior leaders were present at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial where a prayer meeting was held. Mr. Gandhi had also visited the iconic Vivekananda Rock Memorial and paid floral tributes at the giant Tiruvalluvar statue at Kanniyakumari.

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'CIVIL WAR THREAT' ▸ PAGE 9

Two think tanks face tax 'survey'

I-T Dept. action at charity body too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Income Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday conducted "surveys" at two think tanks and a charity organisation on suspicion of irregularities related to financial transactions.

In Delhi, the department carried out the operation at the offices of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in Chanakyapuri and Oxfam India on the Okhla Industrial Estate. The premises of the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF) were surveyed in Bengaluru, according to an official. The agency did not clarify the reasons for the surveys.

Highlighting the difference between a "search" and a "survey", another agency official said the former was an exhaustive exercise covering all the locations linked to the assessee and would involve seizure of documents, cash and valuables.

However, a "survey" operation was limited in its scope given that the agency visited the commercial premises usually during the office hours, could only impound the transaction records for scrutiny and seek clarifications from the persons concerned.

According to its website, the CPR – Meenakshi Gopinath is its chairperson and Yamini Aiyar president and chief executive – is a "non-profit, non-partisan, independent institution dedicated to conducting research that contributes to high quality scholarship, better policies, and a more robust public discourse about the issues that impact life in India".

I-T officials leaving after a survey on the premises of the CPR in New Delhi. • PTI

Oxfam India works on food, clothing, shelter and medical projects.

A public charitable trust registered in 2015, the IPSMF provides financial assistance through grants to independent media organisations "distributing public interest information". The grantees include *The Wire*, *The Print*, *The Caravan*, *The News Minute*, *Alt News*, *The Ken*, and *Live Law*. The trust is chaired by veteran editor T.N. Ninan.

New Delhi, Dhaka hail Ganga panel

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh welcomed the establishment of a joint technical committee to study the use of Ganga waters in Bangladesh, a joint statement issued on the third day of the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday. The Ganga technical committee is one of the several initiatives, including several major connectivity and energy initiatives, that the two sides have announced.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

'Jobs, growth key priorities, not inflation'

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Job creation, equitable wealth distribution and economic growth are the "red-lettered" priorities for the government, while inflation, which has been brought down to a "manageable level", is not so as of now, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday at the India Ideas Summit.

She said India and the U.S. could account for 30% of the global economy if they worked together over two decades.

Govt. promises to solve IT corridor problems before next monsoon

Minister Ashwath Narayan chairs meeting with IT entrepreneurs; says govt. will protect 'Brand Bengaluru'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As the IT corridor in Bengaluru was devastated by heavy rains over the last few days and firms along the Outer Ring Road threatened to leave the city, IT-BT and Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting with leaders of the industry and assured them of finding a permanent solution to the problems before the next monsoon.

In the meeting attended by top entrepreneurs and NASSCOM representatives, the Minister said all efforts would be made to keep intact the "Brand Bengaluru" and requested industry leaders to refrain from making negative comments on the city. Mr. Narayan also assured them of holding a virtual meeting every month for addressing the grievances of IT/BT professionals.

The Outer Ring Road in Bengaluru continued to remain inundated on Wednesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

During a two-hour long meeting, IT leaders clarified that they have no intention of leaving Bengaluru. Responding to the IT minister's appeal, the entrepreneurs said that their primary concern was to bring to the notice of the government the miseries they face and the loss that was caused.

Representatives of Goldman Sachs, Infosys, Wells Fargo, Wipro, Mphasis, Intel, Accenture, Sonata Software, Philips, Solace, and other software firms attended the meeting.

Partners in development

The Minister informed the entrepreneurs that the BBMP Zonal Commissioner has all powers to set right problems caused by rain havoc in Mahadevapura zone. Moreover, IT companies would be made "partners in the development work" in the zone to complete all developmental works as per schedule. On the lines of Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA), work would be taken up in the area, Mr. Narayan told entrepreneurs. He also said efforts would be made to develop storm-water drains and drinking water supply under the 5th phase of the Cauvery.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairperson, State IT vision Group, said that the government was with the industry in resolving any problem they encountered. He said there was no need to worry about 'Brand Bengaluru'. Nearly 80% of the city had not been impacted by the rains. "The damage that has occurred at Mahadevapura is not expected," he said.

High Court restores private complaint of bribery against Yediyurappa

'No sanction is required for ordering probe by special court against him, others

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday restored a private complaint against the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on the allegation of accepting a bribe while stating that there is no need of previous sanction for the special court to order an investigation under Section 156 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while setting aside the special court's July 8, 2021, order of dismissing the private complaint, filed by Abraham T.J., a social activist and president of the Karnataka Anti-Graft and Environmental Forum, Bengaluru.

The special court had said that it cannot order an investigation for want of sanction even though it had found that "there are some material to refer the complaint for investigation" against Mr. Yediyurappa and others on the allegation of receiving ₹12.5 crore as bribe from a construction company in connection with a housing project of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

B.S. Yediyurappa

Fetter on police

"The bar for enquiry, inquiry or investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, without previous approval is only a fetter on the power of the police authorities. Wherever the court itself is in *seisin* of a private complaint and proceeds to order for investigation by the authorities pursuant to order under Section 156(3) of Cr.P.C., such a bar under Section 17A of the P.C. Act would not be an embargo on the court's power," the High Court said.

"The bar under Section 17A of P.C. Act would kick in only post-registration of the FIR when the police are required to commence the investigation," the High Court said.

When the special court has already opinioned that "there are some material to refer the complaint for investigation", there is no reason for the bar under Section 17A of the P.C. Act to prohibit the special court from referring the matter for investigation, the High Court said while making it clear that the police authorities are obligated to register an FIR once the special court passes an order for investigation.

Once the FIR is registered, the police authorities, however, cannot move forward for conducting enquiry, inquiry or investigation without previous approval of the authorities concerned as mandated under Section 17A of P.C. Act, the court said, while clarifying that once the FIR is registered, and the police authorities entertain any doubt on the applicability of the bar under Section 17A to commence the investigation, it is always open to the investigating authorities to obtain clarification from the special court in that regard.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 4

Umesh Katti laid to rest with state honours

Three-day mourning declared in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

The final rites of Umesh Katti, who was a Minister in Basavaraj Bommai-led Cabinet, were conducted with state honours in his native village of Bellad Bagewadi near Hukkeri in Belagavi district on Wednesday. He passed away following a massive heart attack on Tuesday night.

A three-day state mourning has been declared in Karnataka. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there would be no official functions on the three days but work related to the management of floods and other emergency work will go on. Janotsava programme of the BJP, which was to be held in Doddaballapur on September 8, has been postponed and will now be held on September 11.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai offers his last respects to Umesh Katti in Bellad Bagewadi village in Belagavi district on Wednesday. • P.K. BADIGER

Katti's mortal remains were flown on a special flight from Bengaluru to Belagavi by late afternoon and then taken in a decorated truck to Bellad Bagewadi. Village residents offered their respects all along the route. Besides Mr. Bommai and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, a host of leaders cutting across party barriers paid their last respects. Lingayat seers such as Shivakumar Shivacharya participated in the religious rituals. Katti was buried at a site near the tombs of his parents, Vishwanath Katti and Rajeshwari Katti.

Mr. Bommai said Katti, an eight-time MLA, was his close brother with whose family he had a close association for around four decades. Mr. Bommai said Katti was like an "Ajatashatru" and would mingle with everyone.

Siddaramaiah said, "We remained friends despite our ideological differences. I supported his argument that northern Karnataka had suffered from neglect from successive governments, while I opposed his demand for a separate northern Karnataka state.

H.D. Revanna, JD(S) MLA, said, "Umesh Katti was among the few leaders who fought for farmers, whether he was in power or not. The Karnataka legislature has lost a farmers' voice."

A COLOURFUL, CONTROVERSIAL LEADER ▸ PAGE 4

NEET result: Three from State among top 10 rank holders

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the NEET-2022 result late on Wednesday night, and three students from Karnataka have made it to the top ten in the all India rank (AIR) list.

Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule is Karnataka's topper and third topper in the AIR list. He was also the topper in CET result announced in July in BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences) and BVSC (Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences) streams.

Following him, Rucha Pawashe is the second topper in the State and 4th topper in the AIR list. She is also the 2nd AIR list topper in the female category. Krishna S.R. is the 3rd topper in the State and 8th topper in the AIR list. Nine students from Karnataka have found a place in the top 50 in the AIR list.

Hrishikesh Nagbhushan Gangule

72,262 students qualified

This year a total of 1,33,255 students from Karnataka had registered for NEET-2022 and 1,22,423 students appeared for the examination. Among them, a total of 72,262 students qualified for medical seats for the academic year of 2022-23.

The NEET-2022 exam was held on July 17 in 3,570 different centres located in 497 cities across the country, including 14 cities outside India.

This year, a total of 18,72,343 students from across India had registered for the examination and 17,64,571 students appeared for the examination. Among them, 9,93,069 students qualified for medical courses.

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Air quality management

10 In lakh, the number of people who need to be trained in the next five years for air quality management, according to a new report. It also states that around 50,000 jobs could be created in the sector. The report has been prepared by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iForest) with the support of the World Bank Group. It highlights the need for a national-level programme to develop the capacity of all stakeholders — cities, State and central agencies, private sector, NGOs — to effectively tackle air pollution. PTI

Unapproved antibiotics

47 The percentage of antibiotic formulations used in India's private sector in 2019 that were not approved by the central drug regulator, a study published in *The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia* revealed. The research also found that Azithromycin 500mg tablet was the most consumed antibiotic formulation (7.6%) in India. The total defined daily dose (DDD) — the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug in adults — consumed in 2019 was 5,071 million, out of which 2,408 million were centrally unapproved formulations. PTI

Quality of govt. schools

80 The percentage of schools that are worse than junkyards, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Wednesday in a letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Calling the Prime Minister's decision to modernise 14,500 schools "a drop of water in the ocean", Mr. Kejriwal again pushed for a plan to upgrade all 10 lakh government schools in the country. On Monday, Mr. Modi announced that 14,500 schools across the country would be developed and upgraded under the PM-SHRI scheme. PTI

Somalia famine

1 In $ billion, the amount required urgently to avert famine in Somalia, the UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths predicted. The fund would be needed in the coming months and early next year when two more dry seasons are expected to compound the historic drought that has hit the Horn of Africa nation. Up to 7.1 million people across Somalia need urgent assistance to treat and prevent acute malnutrition and reduce the ongoing hunger-related deaths, according to an analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification or IPC. AP

Bengaluru floods

300 In ₹ crore, the amount released by the Karnataka government to manage the flood situation in Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced. The torrential downpour continues to create havoc in the city. A total of ₹1,500 crore has been allocated for the construction of stormwater drains in Bengaluru, Mr. Bommai said, adding that the work will begin once the water recedes. Additionally, ₹9.5 crore is being released for boats and other equipment to deal with the floods. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Content moderation on Wikipedia

What are the mechanisms Wikipedia uses to ensure that users do not have unrestricted editorial privilege?

THE GIST

- India has summoned officials of Wikipedia, in response to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page being edited with misleading information that stated he was a "khalistani".
- To increase Wikipedia's reliability and also to prevent vandalism and disruptive edits, there are restrictions on edits to the content that Wikipedia hosts. One of these restrictions is to allow certain "protections" to be accorded to particular articles. An article may have varying degree of protection depending on the vulnerability of the article to vandalism, disruption and abuse.
- In the case of social media platforms, platform owners such as Meta or Twitter are responsible for exercising due diligence in content moderation through individuals on their payroll. However, in Wikipedia, the situation is slightly different given that content moderation decisions are not taken by employees.

TRISHEE GOYAL

The story so far: On Tuesday, India summoned officials of Wikipedia, in response to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page being edited with misleading information that stated he was a "khalistani". This was done by online trolls after Arshdeep Singh dropped a catch in India's match against Pakistan. The Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrashekhar tweeted that "no intermediary operating in India can permit this type of misinformation" as it violated the government's expectation of a safe and trusted internet. To determine the role and liability of the Wikimedia Foundation (the owner of Wikipedia), in such instances, it is important to understand how content on the platform is moderated.

What is Wikipedia and its model for functioning?

Since its inception in 2001, Wikipedia has become a household name. It describes itself as a "multilingual free online encyclopedia written and maintained by a community of volunteers through open collaboration and a wiki-based editing system". Unlike traditional encyclopedias that have entries from pre-identified authors, all of Wikipedia's encyclopedic content is user generated. This means that anyone can contribute to its pool of knowledge by making edits to existing pages for updation or correction and can even add new pages.

While this model has its advantages in so far that it allows democratisation of knowledge,unhindered access to edit has also resulted in concerns relating to the reliability of information that it hosts.

Are there no control mechanisms for content on Wikipedia?

Even though majority of the content is user generated, the Wikimedia Foundation has instituted some content moderation practices.

First, to increase its reliability and also to prevent vandalism and disruptive edits, over time restrictions have been placed on edits to the content that Wikipedia hosts. One of these restrictions is to allow certain "protections" to be accorded to particular pages. A page may have varying degree of protection depending on the vulnerability of the page to vandalism, disruption and abuse. To implement this system of protection, Wikipedia classifies users depending on the edit rights that they have. For example, one of the highest levels of protection that can be accorded to a page is "full protection". This means that only those users (called administrators) that have been given full edit rights (as per Wikipedia community review process) can make modifications. A slightly lower level of protection is "semi protection". "Semi protected" pages cannot be edited by unregistered users. Another category of protection is "pending changes", which means that changes made will not be reflected on the page unless the changes are accepted by an editor with those rights.

Second, given that edit rights are widespread there have been instances of "content disputes" and "edit warring". Content disputes occur when editors disagree with each other's content. This could also lead to edit warring where editors repeatedly override each other's contribution in a specific page. In such circumstances also, administrators can provide temporary or permanent protection to a page to prevent edits.

However, most of the individuals that perform tasks for Wikipedia such as those holding the designation of bureaucrats, administrators or other editors with varying levels of edit rights are not employees of Wikimedia. These individuals gain such designations and exercise attendant rights through a community review process. Essentially, the more the trust they gain from the Wikipedia community, the greater is their degree of editorial responsibility. They are not given or removed from a particular designation by the Wikimedia Foundation per se.

Although Wikimedia's terms of use state that it "generally does not contribute, monitor or delete content" there are ways in which the Wikimedia Foundation exerts control over Wikipedia. First, the Wikimedia Foundation legally controls the servers on which Wikipedia's content is hosted. This means that even though they do not have ownership of the user generated content hosted on Wikipedia, they are in control of the user activity information generated on the servers. Second, Wikimedia Foundation also exercises control on who the "system administrators" of Wikipedia are. System administrators are in a position to exercise considerable power because they can take decisions of blocking users or reversing edits in some circumstances, which can have content moderation implications.

Therefore, can the Wikimedia Foundation be held responsible for the content that Wikipedia hosts?

There is no settled position on this. Typically, the architecture of Wikipedia is that of an intermediary i.e. it hosts content generated by its users. Under most laws regulating online content, intermediaries are endowed with immunity from the user generated content they host, provided they maintain some due diligence over their platforms. Intermediaries are afforded this immunity because first, the sheer volume of content generated makes it impossible to monitor this content and second, being personally responsible for user content would inundate them in legal battles making operations at that scale infeasible.

In previous challenges to content on Wikipedia, there have been rulings that the Wikimedia Foundation does not own the content, and does not have the legal responsibility for it. However, administrators or editors have taken heed of the content concerns arising out of the situation and have made suitable edits. In case volunteer editors do not make suitable edits, Wikimedia, as per its terms of use states that it can "contribute, monitor or delete content" for legal compliance. Therefore, it is arguable that since Wikimedia can exercise such power, it can be held responsible for illegal content being hosted on Wikipedia.

What can the Indian government do if it is aggrieved by content on Wikipedia?

In India, for intermediaries to claim the "safe harbour" of not being responsible for the content they host, under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, they must abide by due diligence requirements under the Act and its Rules. As per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, there are certain categories of information that an intermediary should not allow to be hosted or uploaded on its platform. One such category is information that is "patently false and untrue, and is written or published in any form, with the intent to mislead or harass a person, entity or agency for financial gain or to cause any injury to any person". Therefore, in the Indian context, even if the Wikimedia Foundation does not own the information hosted on Wikipedia, once Wikimedia Foundation has "actual knowledge" of such content being hosted on its platform, it would be held responsible for the same.

In the context of the IT Rules, 2021 "actual knowledge" occurs when an intermediary has been notified by either a court order or through an order of the appropriate agency demanding removal of the offending content. In this case while neither has happened, Wikipedia administrators and editors have removed the distortion from Arshdeep Singh's page and granted it certain protection such that only "trusted editors" can edit the page.

Trishee Goyal is a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Law and Technology Research, Vidhi Centre for legal policy

The Wikipedia Monument in Słubice, Poland. •CC BY-SA 4.0

EXPLAINER

The mandatory requirements for packaged commodities

Why is it necessary to list out the constituents of a product on the front packaging?

G.S. BAJPAI
SANGEETA TAAK

The story so far: The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has notified a draft amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011. As stated in the notification, the Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Metrology Division has observed that many manufacturers/packagers/importers do not clearly label necessary declarations or prime constituents on the front of packaged commodities, which are deemed essential to be disclosed in order to protect consumer interests.

What are the mandatory provisions under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011?

It is mandatory under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 to ensure a number of declarations, such as the name and address of the manufacturer/packer/importer, the country of origin, the common or generic name of the commodity, the net quantity, the month and year of manufacture, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and consumer care information. As a consumer-oriented policy, all prepackaged commodities should also be inspected.

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As stated in Rule 2(h), the "principal display panel", in relation to a package, means the total surface area of a package containing the information required in accordance with these rules, namely that all the information should be grouped together and given in one place – the pre-printed information could be grouped together and given in one place and the online information in another place.

Additionally, Rule 9(1)(a) provides that the declaration on the package must be legible and prominent. The consumers' 'right to be informed' is violated when important declarations are not prominently displayed on the package.

If there is more than one major product, Rule 6(1)(b) states that ".....the name or number of each product shall be mentioned on the package." This sub-rule is however, not applicable to mechanical or electrical commodities.

What are the proposed amendments?

As many blended food and cosmetic products are sold on the market, the key constituents need to be mentioned on the product packaging. It is common for consumers to assume that brands' claims are accurate, but such claims are usually misleading. Additionally, the front side of the package must contain the percentage of the composition of the unique selling proposition (USP). As the name suggests, a USP also known as a unique selling point, is a marketing strategy designed to inform customers about the superiority of one's own brand or product. Listing the USP of a product on the front of the package without disclosing its composition percentage violates consumer rights. Also, packages displaying key constituents must display a percentage of the content used to make the product. For example, if a brand sells aloe vera moisturiser or almond milk/biscuits, then the maximum percentage of the product should be aloe vera and almond, otherwise, the product name is misleading.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has suggested that at least two prime components should be declared on the package's front side along with the brand name. Currently, manufacturers list the ingredients and nutritional information only on the back of the packaging.

The proposed Section 6(1)(ba) states that when a commodity contains more than one constituent, the front side of the package must include a declaration of two or more of the commodities' prime constituents along with the brand name. This declaration must also include the percentage/quantity of the USPs of the product in the same font size as the declaration of the USPs. However, mechanical or electrical commodities are excluded from this sub-rule.

Moreover, public comments were solicited from all stakeholders, including industries, associations, consumers, and voluntary consumer organisations, in order to obtain their viewpoints.

When the new provision of Section 6(1)(ba) is added, consumers will not be misled by the fake claims of manufacturers relating to the content in blended foods and cosmetics.

G. S. Bajpai is the Vice-Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab where Sangeeta Taak is Assistant Professor.

THE GIST

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CM seeks fair rain relief as per Central norms

Team to study situation in Bengaluru, Mandya, and Ramanagaram

Rainbow Drive layout on Sarjapur Road was still under water on Wednesday following torrential rain in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the State government has prepared a memorandum on rain damage estimate meticulously and transparently and the Centre must be recommended to release "a fair compensation" to Karnataka as per the Central guidelines.

With extensive rain damage in many districts, Mr. Bommai said the Central team has been asked to consider the State as a special case.

He held a meeting with the Central team, led by Ashish Kumar, Joint Secretary, Union Home Ministry, which arrived here on Wednesday to study the flood situation in Karnataka, and also the extensive damage caused due to floods during the ongoing monsoon. The team members were given details of the damages caused due to floods in July and August, and relief measures taken up by the State government.

The team was scheduled to visit Chitradurga, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Haveri, Dharwad, Gadag, Bidar and Kalaburagi districts, but Mr. Bommai suggested they also visit Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada districts that witnessed massive landslips, sea erosion and other damages.

- Mr. Bommai suggested the team also visit Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada districts that witnessed massive landslips, sea erosion and other damages

The team was asked to take stock of flood situations in Bengaluru city, Mandya and Ramanagaram districts. Mr. Bommai informed the team that this time, a large number of fishing boats, shops, and other business establishments had been damaged.

In Ramanagaram, silk reeling units and twisting units too have suffered damage. "This kind of damage has happened for the first time," he said. It has impacted the lives of many people. The team must try to extend the maximum help on humanitarian grounds, he said.

Sea erosion

The Chief Minister said Karnataka has a coastal area of 330 km and works worth ₹350 crore have been taken up to prevent sea erosion in several sensitive places. But, erosion has happened in the new spots. Central government assistance is required for the protection of the complete coastal region, he said. North Karnataka too faced unprecedented floods in districts such as Kalaburagi, Gadag, Bidar, and Koppal. In fact, the State has been receiving intermittent rains since November last year and there is a need to undertake a study of the rain pattern in the State, he said. Almost all the tanks are full and overflowing. Many tanks have breached and caused floods. The situation was quite contrast to the floods caused by overflowing rivers, Mr. Bommai said.

₹1,600 cr. for repairs

Mr. Bommai said since November last, ₹500 crore was released twice and ₹600 crore was released two days ago towards restoring infrastructure damages.

The State was giving an additional input subsidy for crop loss and ₹2,452 crore has been disbursed among 18.58 lakh farmers. Out of this, ₹1,160 crore has been borne by the State exchequer.

HC directs BBMP to expedite proposal to construct sluice gates in lakes

Court also asks civic body to set up grievance redressal system in each ward

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to establish grievance redressal system in every ward to swiftly attend to the problems faced by the unprecedented rain in the city.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty issued the direction while hearing a PIL petition, through which the court is monitoring issues related to poor maintenance of city roads.

FROM THE COURT

'Address complaints'

Also, the BBMP was directed to instruct all the ward-level engineers to ensure that complaints of the public are attended immediately.

As the BBMP counsel V. Sreenidhi told the Bench that it is being proposed to construct sluice gates in the lakes to control the water level by releasing excess water before start of monsoon so that overflowing or breach of lake bunds be prevented, the Bench directed the civic body to expeditiously submit the proposal to the State government for its approval.

Earlier, the Bench wanted to know what action taken by the BBMP to assist the people in flood-affected areas and to clear waterlogging. The Bench was of the view that existing grievance redressal system at the zonal level was insufficient to swiftly attend to the problems of the people.

Meanwhile, the BBMP told the court that the city has received unprecedented rain from past one week, and flooding and waterlogging was witnessed due to breach of bunds of several lakes as lakes received excess rain water and in some areas storm water drains overflowed.

Data on rainfall

In its data on rainfall submitted to the court, the BBMP stated that rainfall was an average three to five times between September 1 and September 5 this year in the eight zones when compared to the average rainfall during this period in the previous years. While average rainfall in the eight zones during this period was in the range of 21 mm to 27 mm, it was between 64 mm and 104 mm this time, the BBMP's data showed quoting the details from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Houses affected

On the impact of heavy rainfall on September 4, the BBMP said that 627 and 600 houses were affected respectively in East (which received 81.8 mm rain) and Mahadevapura zones (83.8 mm), and 44 and 30 houses affected in South (76mm) and Bommanahalli (52.5 mm) zones, respectively. While 30 houses were affected in Yelahanka zone (64.4 mm), three houses affected in R.R. Nagar (55.8 mm) zones, and no houses affected in Dasarahalli (50.8 mm) and West zone (961.9 mm), the BBMP stated.

Three-day conference

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will organise a three-day conference-cum-public expo titled 'Manthan' from Thursday in Bengaluru.

The conference aims to anchor discussions in the roads, transport and logistics sector and engage with the State, UTs and other key stakeholders from the industry for sharing of best practices, policy support, and capacity development.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the conference.

Free camp

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bangalore Physiotherapist Network to mark World Physiotherapy Day will hold a free physiotherapy arthritis camp at 100+ hospitals and clinics across Bengaluru on Thursday. Visit http://www.physiobangalore.com/oaphysio-camp-locations.php

Water adalat to be held today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at the following sub divisions: East 1-2, East 2-3, South East 1-3, West-2-2, North West-4, North East-1, North 2-1, South1-2, and South West-5.

The adalat is being held to settle the grievances connected to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other related issues. For issues regarding the water supply, consumers can contact helpline number 1916 or WhatsApp no. 8762228888. Consumers can also utilise the facilities to resolve their problems regarding water supply.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that, my client Sri. R YESUPATHAM S/o. Late. Rajagopal, have lost Original Sale deed dated 27.09.1972, No.3423/1972-73, Volume No.78, Pages 129-130, registered at the Office of the Sub-registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore pertaining to Property No.72 Sy no.53/3, Mathikere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 45 Feet and North To South 30 Feet, in this regard a Police Complaint was lodged on 07.09.2022, vide Lost Report No.0314381/2022. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that, my client Sri. M.NARAYANAN M S/o. Late. Muniyan have lost Original Sale deed dated 27.09.1972, No.3422/1972-73, Volume No.79, Pages 218-220, registered at the Office of the Sub-registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore pertaining to Property No.73 Sy no.53/3, Mathikere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 45 Feet and North To South 30 Feet, in this regard a Police Complaint was lodged on 07.09.20222, vide Lost Report No.0314387/2022. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Mr. ROBIN SAM CUTINHA**, S/o. Mr. Simon Marian Rockey Cutinha, residing at No. 1703/2, Robin Nivas, Ramdev Garden, Near Jyothi school, Kacharakanahalli, Bengaluru-560084 (Aadhar No. 7653 0064 9042). Anybody has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL the vacant residential property bearing **site No.26**, property No. 79/3 and 80/2, Present khata No. 316, situated at **Horamavu Agara village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk** (Former Bangalore South Taluk), Bengaluru, presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP ward and measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 50 Feet., in all measuring **2000 Sq. Ft.,**

And BOUNDED ON:
EAST BY : Road.
WEST BY : Site No. 25.
NORTH BY : Road.
SOUTH BY : Site No. 10 and 11.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61. Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. ISAAC JOHN, S/o (Late) John Isaac,** represented by his Sister and GPA Holder **Mrs. ASHA MATHEW,** has lost the original Sale Deed dated 04.04.1991 at Bangalore, which is a registered document No.80/91-92 in Book-I, volume 279, pages 131 to 135 registered at the Office of the Sub Registrar, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore, of Site No.13, Nisarga Colony, Khata No.135, Situated at Horamavu, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.25.
(earlier Site No.13 Horamavu Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore), has been lost or misplaced and a complaint has been lodged with the Bangalore Police, on 05.09.2022, vide Lost Report No.0312332/2022.
Any person having possession of the document shall hand over to the under signed or having any manner of claim in respect of the said property shall lodge the objections within **10 days** from today, failing which it shall be deemed that nobody else has any kind of claim and the certified copies obtained from the sub-registrar office will be treated as original.

K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES,
Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road, Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414. E-mail: peresoffice@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-67-22-23, Date. 01.09.2022

Work: Construction of Limited Height Subway/Road Under Bridge (LHS/RUB) by Cut & Cover Method in connection with elimination of Level Crossing No. AB-26 (PWD) & AB-58 (Shivprasad Nagar) between Anuppur-Ambikapur section and Level Crossing No. 366B (Tarbahar) at Bilaspur Yard of Bilaspur Division. **Tender Value** (In Rs.): **16,60,59,331/-, EMD** (In Rs.): **9,50,300/-**, **Completion Period: 18** Months. **Start date of Submission of Tender:** From **11.00** hrs on **19.09.2022**, **Last date of Submission of Tender:** Upto **11.00** hrs. on **03.10.2022.**

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over websites **https://www.ireps.gov.in**. Bids other than e-bid shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPR/10/207 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur
South East Central Railway @secrail

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOHALI
(An Autonomous Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology, GOI)
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab

F. No. 14(13)/2020-INST Date: 07.09.2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I UNDER "DBT" FUNDED PROJECT

Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) invites applications for engagement of Project Associate-I, on contractual basis under project entitled "Understanding the Forces Involved in the Packing of Enzymes Inside the Bacterial Microcompartments for the Development of Novel Encapsulated Bio-Systems", for a period of four months / or till the project end whichever is earlier. Fellowship: Rs 31,000/- (pm) + HRA (as applicable). **Last date of receipt of application: 30th September, 2022.** For details, candidate may visit **https://inst.ac.in/careers**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Saheed Kumar Sahoo s/o Hari Har Sahoo** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s Oceanus Dwellings Pvt. Ltd.** (hereinafter builder/seller). The builder/seller represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the schedule property and that it has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the builder/seller further represents and warrants that it has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Flat No.C-102**, 2.5 BHK situated on First Floor, in 'C' Block, in **"Oceanus Tranquil"** measuring SBA of 1381 sqft, and 414 sqft UDS, with one covered car parking space, constructed on sy no.55, 58, converted land, situated at **Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, KR puram post, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore Dist, Bangalore.**

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900058401
Bengaluru Date : 08-09-2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group, ISRO HQ,
Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru -560 094
Ph:080-22172033/2032/2476 Fax No.080-23513126

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tenders are invited for the following work:

Title of work	**Annual Maintenance Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil and PH System for Antariksh Bhavan and E1 type quarters at RT Nagar, Bengaluru.**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/AMC/16/P/2022-23 dated 07.09.2022**
Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 38.08 Lakhs**
Period of completion in months	**Twelve (12) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	**From: 18:10 Hrs on 07.09.2022 To: 23:59 Hrs on 23.09.2022**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	**Up to: 14:30 Hrs on 28.09.2022**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**16:00 Hrs on 28.09.2022**
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 76,160.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed tender notice on **www.isro.gov.in/tender.** Detailed tender notice and Tender documents can be downloaded from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

FORM No. 15
IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 1437 of 2021

M/s. CANARA BANK
AMATHI BRANCH, DEVANAHALLI TQ, BLORE RURAL DT-562114
Rep. by its Chief Mgr. V/s. ....APPLICANT

Sri. RAMAKRISHNAPPA & 2 OTHERS ....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEFT. Nos. 1 & 2 ISSUED UNDER RULE 16 (III) OF DRT REGULATIONS-2015

Deft. No.1: **Sri. RAMAKRISHNAPPA**
Aged about 79 Years, S/o. Late Subbaiah, R/@. #67/2, Allalasandra, GKVK Post, Bg-65.

Deft. No.2: **Sri. S. NARAYANA GOWDA**
Aged about 67 Years, S/o. Late Subbaiah, R/@. 67/5, Allalasandra-Narayanappa Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru North-560065.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted the application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of total sum of **Rs. 73,82,734** alongwith court costs, current and future interest and other reliefs. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 4th day of January 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or a duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 2nd day of September 2022 at Bangalore

Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 for Karnataka
4, 1st Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bangalore-560 025.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, SHASHIKANTH B Deginal, S/o Late Basavaraj, R/a No.278, 4th Crs, 2nd Mn, Shivanagar, Rajajinagar, B'lore-10 hereby state that both the names Shashikanth Deginal and Shashikanth B Deginal belongs to same person i.e., me only, vide affidavit dt: 06.09.2022 sworn before Notary C.K.Anupama, B'lore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby intimated to general public at large that my client **Sri Raghavendra Avula** S/o Venkataramana, R/at No.757, 2nd Floor, 13th Cross, 22nd Main, 2nd Phase, J P Nagara, Bangalore South-560078, has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Properties shown herein below from its owner **Sri Shivaprakash N S** S/o late K Shankaraiah, R/at Nagasandra Village, Yadiyuru Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur district. Any person having any rights, title, interest, share, claim, objections, minor claims in respect of the schedule property are hereby called upon to send their written objections whatsoever along with documentary proof to the undersigned within **Fifteen Days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within **15 days,** my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as there are no any legal heirs and there are no any claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land in Old Sy.No.47 New Sy.No. 47/2 measuring 0.29.04 guntas and Old Sy.No.47 New Sy.No.47/3 measuring 08.08 guntas both are situated at Kantanahalli Mavinahalli Amani Keri Village, Yadiyuru Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur district, both having common boundaries as follows **East by:** Land of Gundappa, **West by:** Land of Raghavendra Avula. **North by:** Land of Raghavendra Avula, **South by:** Land of Raghavendra Avula and Kane.

GURUPRASAD .H.M, Advocate
Rangappa Complex,
Near Court Bus Stop, Magadi Town-562120. Mobile: 9740706704

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client is intended to purchase the below mention property from its owner Mr G.k.Nagaraj and Mrs A. Anupama Both Residing At: L-203,SNN Raj Lakeview Apartment,29th Main, BTM 2nd Stage,Bangalore - 560076If anybody having any objection,claim,interest, dispute,for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof sustaining their objection /claim / dispute within seven (7) days from this day of publication, failing which my client will proceed with the sale transaction with the above owner as if their is no objection /claim/ dispute on the schedule property, and thereafter no claims / disputes /objections shal not be entertained

Schedule

Residential Site bearing No:7, Begur Village Panchyat Katha No:686, formed out of survey No:303, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South taluk presently falls under BBMP having A-Katha with PID No: 3272/686/7 measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 65 feet in all measuring 2600 Sq.Ft. Located in Duo Heights layout, Devarachikkanahalli, Bangalore-76

Sd /- Mr.Karthick
Ph +91 7358-183731
Jeocoins@protonmail.com
Through sagata associates and lawyers karamangala, Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, POOVAMMA Noorera Bollaiah, W/o Kuttappa. B P, R/o No.104, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bharathinagar, Bengaluru-560042 have changed my name to Poovamma Balliyameedirera Kuttappa vide affidavit dt: 06.09.2022 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, B'lore.

THANKSGIVING

Gratitude to Lord
- M.Sainath and Family

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL, JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21 O.S. NO. 25767/2021

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder **Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff**
And
Margie Detera Romero ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Margie Detera Romero,
D/o. Mr. Vivek, Aged about 55 years, Flat No. 303, C Block, Skyline Bagamane Champagne Hills, South Avenue, Gottigere, Near Vascge School, Bangalore - 560 083

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 4,02,956/- (Rupees Four Lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 29/09/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 19/08/2022

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21) O.S. NO. 25577/2020

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder **Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff**
And
N. Srinivasa ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
N Srinivasa, S/o. Giriyappa Narayan, Aged about 41 years, No. 661, 1st Floor, 6th Main, Krishna Nadi Road, Brindavan Nagar, Srinagar Pipiline, Banashankari, Bangalore- 560 050

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 2,56,999/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 28/09/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 17/08/2022

By Order of the Hon'ble Court, Deputy Registrar City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
S.A. Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-74) O.S. NO. 25546/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder **Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff**
And
Sri. Ahish Kumar ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Ahish Kumar, S/o. Sri. Nagaraja, Aged about 45 years, No. 07, Ground Floor, 11th Cross, Maruthinagar, Bhadrappa Layout, Ring Road, SST PG, Bangalore-560 094

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 5,88,794/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-74) in personally or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 11/10/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 25/08/2022.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL, JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21 O.S. NO. 25767/2021

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder **Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff**
And
Margie Detera Romero ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Margie Detera Romero,
D/o. Mr. Vivek, Aged about 55 years, Flat No. 303, C Block, Skyline Bagamane Champagne Hills, South Avenue, Gottigere, Near Vascge School, Bangalore - 560 083

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 4,02,956/- (Rupees Four Lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 29/09/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 19/08/2022

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21 O.S. NO. 25576/2020

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder **Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff**
And
Mylapur Narasimha Murthy ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Mylapur Narasimha Murthy, S/o. SH Shankaraiah Setty Mylapur, Aged about 48 years, No.39/15, 7th Main Road, Ganesha Block, Nandini Layout, Near Tent, Bangalore- 560 096

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 9,90,462/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Two Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in personally or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 28/09/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 17/08/2022.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-74) O.S. NO. 25559/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
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And
Ms. Andrea Leonie Alphoso ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Ms. Andrea Leonie Alphonso, D/o. Mr. Alphonso Arokiaswamy, Aged about 36 years, No.29, Anjaneya Temple Street, 6th Cross, Y G Palya, Austin Town, Near Chaithanya Hotel, Bangalore-560 047

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 5,07,377/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Seven Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 11/10/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 25/08/2022

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
S.A. Associates,
No.1 0, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

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TOOLBOX

Building an image classifier for sorting images

A picture speaks a thousand words. Perhaps this is the reason why the number of pictures stored on our devices have grown dramatically. Don't we all recognise the inclination to use an emoji instead of an over-long text response making services such as SnapChat, Instagram and TikTok to become some of the most popular internet platforms. Organising these images on our devices can be tedious which is why cloud-based storage platforms by Google and Apple offer automatic sorting of images. These are driven by advancements in computer vision algorithms, particularly, developments in Machine Learning (ML) methods. In this tutorial, we will attempt to build a simple image classifier and run it on a local computer which has Python installed on it. Just to make it more interesting we will try to tell jalebis from samosas! By **Raghavendra Selvan**

EXTRACTING THE DATA

The starting point of all ML model development is to get well-curated data. The data for the purposes of this tutorial can be downloaded from this link **https://bit.ly/foodclassifier.** Once the data has been downloaded locally onto your computer, try and extract the archive in such a manner that the folder structure is retained. You should see the following contents inside the folder.

data

food_classifier.ipynb

Browse the contents of the data folder, and you should see two more folders with the names of the food items we are trying to classify. Additionally, the folder also contains the Python code in the form of an interactive Python notebook (ipynb), which the reader can tweak for later projects. Inside the data folder, there are some images of jalebis and samosas, which were crawled from the web released under the Creative Commons licence, which allow us to work with them.

MAKING THE DATASET

Now that the data has been downloaded, we will start using the Python programme for building the image classifier. The recommended environment for this project is the Jupyter-Lab Python environment, but more advanced users can use any other integrated development environment. Once inside your favourite Python programming environment, load the initial libraries necessary for reading and visualising the images. Browse the folder where the contents from the downloaded archive are present.

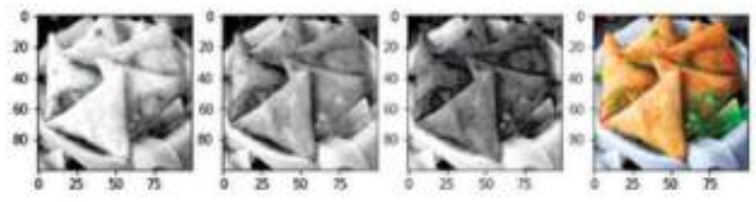
```
# Some of the essential Python Packages to be loaded
# See how you can load a package using a different name;
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import glob
from skimage.transform import resize

# add any other packages you might need
```

It must be noted that JPG images are stored as numerical arrays and that each number represents the intensity of that pixel. Usually, 0 intensity corresponds to black and 255 corresponds to white and all numbers in between capture the 256 shades of grey. For colour images, there are three channels corresponding to the Red-Green-Blue (RGB) content in the images.

By using the image reading and viewing packages in the Matplotlib library, we can visualise the different channels of the images

```
# Show some sample Jalebis and Samosas using pyplot
# Images are stored as RGB arrays. We can view each of
# these channels in grayscale to see the amount of RGB
# content in the images.
plt.figure(figsize=(10,8))
plt.gray()
imgA = plt.imread(samosa_list[1])
plt.subplot(241)
plt.imshow(imgA[:,:,0])
plt.subplot(242)
plt.imshow(imgA[:,:,1])
plt.subplot(243)
plt.imshow(imgA[:,:,2])
plt.subplot(244)
plt.imshow(imgA[:,:])
imgA.shape
```

```
(100, 100, 3)
```



We will need to standardise these images, for which we will use the amount of RGB content in each of the images to describe them to the algorithms. So, the dataset we create will resize all these images to a fixed size and compute the average amount of RGB in each image. Thus, every image will be represented using only three features.

```
# We would like to extract some features
# to be able to compare jalebis from samosas

num_features = 3

# Initialise empty arrays to hold some features
jal_features = np.zeros((num_jalebi,num_features))
sam_features = np.zeros((num_samosa,num_features))

# Feature extraction
# One of the basic features that can be extracted is the average intensity
# of the R, G, B channels.
# Steps:
# 1. Load image data
# 2. Convert it into numpy array
# 3. Extract 3 features

# Make Jalebi features
for i in range(num_jalebi):
    img = plt.imread(jalebi_list[i])
    img = resize(img,(64,64))
    jal_features[i] = img.mean((0,1))

# Make Samosa features
for i in range(num_samosa):
    img = plt.imread(samosa_list[i])
    img = resize(img,(64,64))
    sam_features[i] = img.mean((0,1))
```

As computers cannot fully comprehend what jalebis and samosas are, we will use numbers to represent their labels. For instance, a jalebi can be 0 and a samosa can be 1.

```
# We need to assign "labels" to distinguish
# jalebis and samosas

# Usually the two classes are mapped to two numbers
# We use 0 -> jalebi and 1 -> samosa
labels = ['Jalebi','Samosa']
jal_labels = np.ones(num_jalebi)*0
sam_labels = np.ones(num_samosa)*1
```

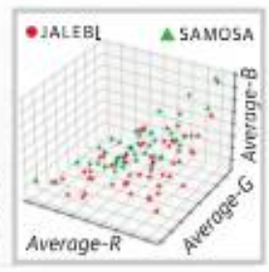
The final step of making the dataset is to stack the two classes of data into a single array. This is a requirement for the ML framework we will be using in the next step.

```
# Make the dataset

# Combine features of both Jalebis and Samosas into
# a single array. Same for labels.
X = np.concatenate((jalFeatures,samFeatures),axis=0)
print(X.shape)
Y = np.concatenate((jalLabels,samLabels))
print(Y.shape)
```

```
(100, 3)
(100,)
```

We can now visualise all the jalebis and samosas in the average RGB feature space. Each marker in this plot captures the amount of R,G and B content in these images

```
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

fig = plt.figure(figsize=(6,6))
ax = fig.add_subplot(111,projection='3d')
ax.scatter(jalFeatures[:,0],jalFeatures[:,1],
           jalFeatures[:,2],c='r',marker='o'
           ,label='Jalebi')
ax.scatter(samFeatures[:,0],samFeatures[:,1],
           samFeatures[:,2],c='g',marker='^',
           label='Samosa')
ax.set_xlabel('Average-R')
ax.set_ylabel('Average-G')
ax.set_zlabel('Average-B')
plt.legend()
ax = plt.gca()
ax.xaxis.set_ticklabels([]);
ax.yaxis.set_ticklabels([]);
ax.zaxis.set_ticklabels([]);
```



TRAINING AN IMAGE CLASSIFIER

Now that our dataset is ready, we can train a simple image classifier to automate the detection of jalebis and samosas. We will use the Scikit-Learn Python package, which has a comprehensive set of tools and algorithms that can be used for ML.

The first step of training an ML algorithm is to split the dataset for training and testing purposes. As the name suggests, the training set is used to train the ML algorithm and the test set is used to test the performance of it. The performance on the test set is more representative of how the algorithm will fare on new real-world data. We use 75% of the data for training and the remaining 25% for testing purposes.

```
# Let us shuffle the data!
from sklearn.model_selection
import train_test_split
xTrain, xTest, yTrain, yTest = train_test_split
(X,Y,test_size=0.25,shuffle=True)
print(xTrain.shape,xTest.shape)
```

```
(75, 3) (25, 3)
```

The next step is to load the Python modules from Scikit-Learn which will be used to initialise our simple classifier. Here, we will use the simplest of the classifiers based on logistic regression. This classifier is constrained as a linear classifier and can be restrictive. However, these models can also be quite useful and for this tutorial we will confine to using such linear models. We will initialise the Logistic Regression classifier, train it on the training set and test it on the test set.

```
# Now that our data is ready. Let us use a classifier.
# Logistic regression learns a linear boundary
# to classify the data
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
clf = LogisticRegression().fit(xTrain, yTrain)
print('Training set accuracy is %.3f'%
clf.score(xTrain,yTrain))
print('Test set accuracy is %.3f'% clf.score(xTest,yTest))
```

```
Training set accuracy is 0.693
Test set accuracy is 0.760
```

For this random training-test split, we obtain a training accuracy of about 70% and a test set accuracy of 77%. One must note that these numbers could vary quite a bit due to the randomness in the data shuffles and the initial model parameters.

Once you have trained a classifier, we can use the trained model to make predictions on new data. The Logistic Regression classifier predicts a score for how likely it believes a certain image belongs to a certain group. This can be treated as a probabilistic score.

```
### Load new image
new_img = 'data/new_img.jpg'
img = plt.imread(new_img)
### Resize and compute features
img = resize(img,(64,64))
x_inference =img.mean((0,1)).reshape(1,-1)

### Obtain classifier prediction
pred = int(clf.predict(X_inference))
prob_pred=clf.predict_proba(X_inference)[0]
### Output model prediction
print('Prediction:'+labels[pred]+' with
confidence %.2f'%prob_pred[pred])
plt.imshow(img)
```

```
Prediction:Jalebi with confidence 0.53
<matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x7efcbc325100>
```

WHAT NEXT?

For now, we have explored the procedure to build a simple image classifier that can tell jalebis from samosas. Using this template, one can build more sophisticated algorithms. Simple extensions to this project could be to include additional food categories or to try out more complex algorithms. For the latter, Scikit-Learn has well documented algorithms with examples and could be a starting point.

Raghavendra Selvan is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Copenhagen.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Onam is being celebrated on September 8. A quiz on one of the most important festivals in Kerala.

1 In which month of the Malayalam almanac is Onam and what does it celebrate?

2 What is the name given to the clay pyramid with four faces and a flat top that is used during Onam to symbolise Vamana?

3 If the festivities conclude on the tenth day known as Thiruvonam, what is the day on which it begins called?

4 Leucas aspera is an integral part of the Onam festivities. What is it called locally and where is it used?

5 One of the highlights of the festivities is the Onam Sadhya or Onasadhya. Traditionally how many dishes make up the lavish spread?

6 Which signature Sadhya dish is made with yogurt, yam, or raw banana and grated coconut, and which dish is made with pumpkin, red beans, and coconut?

7 What competitive event, said to be the oldest of its kind in Kerala, takes place on the Utthrattathi Nakshatra near the Sri Parthasarathy Temple as part of Onam festivities?

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

◄ What is this dance called and on what day of Onam is it traditionally performed? • NAJEEB K. K.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This bank, considered the oldest bank in India, eventually became one of the four banks that were merged to form the Bank of Madras in 1843. It was once closed and restarted in 1806. **Ans: The Madras Bank founded in 1683**
2. This agency house established the Bank of Hindostan which is now a defunct bank. **Ans: Alexander and Company. Agency houses were trading companies.**
3. This Indian private sector bank, founded in 1920, sponsors the Gokulam Kerala FC. **Ans: The CSB Bank Limited. It was earlier known as the Catholic Syrian Bank Limited**
4. The Oriental Bank Corporation, a British imperial bank founded in India in 1842, was the first bank to issue banknotes in this country. **Ans: Hong Kong, currently part of China**
Visual: The stamp of this bank was released by India Post during its 150th anniversary. **Ans: Standard Chartered Bank of India. It was earlier called the Chartered Bank of India**

Early Birds: Lakshay| M. Suresh Kumar

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 08	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:26
RISE 17:04	SET 03:51
FRIDAY, SEP. 09	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:25
RISE 17:53	SET 04:54
SATURDAY, SEP. 10	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:24
RISE 18:37	SET 05:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (September 8, Thursday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** Content moderation on Wikipedia bit.ly/wikipediatc

Online exclusives

- **Read |** Mahabali and the pappadam — a speculative flashback bit.ly/onamsatire
- **In Focus podcast** What next for Liz Truss after U.K. PM race win? bit.ly/lizcabinet
- **The Hindu on Books** The JCB Prize longlist, Savarkar's idea of history and more bit.ly/booksjcb
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

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Migrant workers suffer as water enters their tents and sheds

They allege civic agencies don't respond with same alacrity like in posh colonies

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Just behind the line of apartments on Borewell road in Whitefield, lies a migrant workers' colony, essentially a group of around 50 makeshift tents and sheds, in which over 300 people live. When those in apartments were using expensive pumping machines, the women here said they were draining water from their tents with old vessels and plastic bottles and containers.

With no civic officials being pressed into action here, it offered a picture of stark contrast in the way the economically disadvantaged in the city have dealt with the rain havoc when compared to others. Many migrant labourers and union leaders have alleged that the civic agencies haven't responded to their concerns with the same alacrity as they did to posh residential localities and tech parks.

Residents moving out of an apartment on Borewell road in Whitefield on Wednesday; (below) flooding in slums near Munnenakolalu and Bellandur. •K. MURALI KUMAR & AICCTU KARNATAKA

Severely affected

The slums in Munnekollal, Brookfield, Palyam, Whitefield, and BEML Layout have been severely affected in the recent rainfall. Most of these migrant workers have come to Bengaluru from North Karnataka districts like Ballari, Raichur, and Kalaburagi and mostly work in construction sites. There are also some who have migrated from Anantpur, Chittoor, and other parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, out of which many work as pourakarmikas for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Yet, four days after heavy rain lashed these parts, migrant labour colony in Munnekolal was still flooded. There are no means for people to prepare food or catch a good night's sleep with water everywhere. Those who live in hundreds of tents alleged that they had received no help from the BBMP. They said that they were being provided food, water, and other necessary items through NGOs and other CSR initiatives. With no options left, some have evacuated the site.

At Brookfield, there were around 65 tents which had been affected by the rains. However, here the residents said that the BBMP authorities had pumped most of the water out.

They also alleged that BBMP only helped the pourakarmikas residing there and neglected the other migrant workers. The locals also blamed the tech park at the back of which the tents are put up, for letting the water pumped from their premises into their establishment.

"We pay rent between ₹500 and ₹1,500 for these tents. The water from Kundalahalli lake has flown till here. Water from almost 5-km radius drains into the Rajakaluve here. Ultimately, we have been burdened. If it starts raining, we ensure that our infants and children stay put in the safety of the temple here. The rest of us have not had a moment's peace," explained Sadashivu and Ambarish.

Some migrant workers in Whitefield said that due to the rain, work had stopped at the construction sites, which meant no daily wage for them. "The BBMP gives us one meal a day. The water level has decreased, but we still cannot cook here. We do not have enough supplies either. What are we supposed to do?" asked Lakshmi, a migrant worker.

Rain may have stopped in Bengaluru, but woes continue

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Although the intensity of rainfall has not been much in the last two days, the aftermath of the two heavy showers on Sunday and Monday continued to trouble the residents of the IT corridor even on Wednesday. Inundated roads and apartment basements, JCBs clearing encroachments and cleaning up lakes, and tractors carrying people were a common sight around the zone. However, the situation was getting slightly better at many gated communities due to the efforts of the fire and emergency personnel.

On Borewell road in Whitefield, around eight apartments were struggling with a plethora of issues. At SS Felecity, residents, including the elderly, used ladders to get down from the balcony of their houses to the main gate, along with their luggage, to temporarily shift to a hotel or relatives' place. Rafts were being used to navigate through the flooded basement and residents said that the electricity had been out for three days. Similar was the situation at other apartments too.

As the compound wall of one of the apartments had collapsed, the residential building in which Mutthurayappa and his wife Sujatha reside had been flooded and the access to their home almost cut off. "All the IT professionals in apartments have moved to hotels to stay safe, but what should people like us who cannot afford it do? We have called the Bescom and BBMP too many times in the last three days, and yet they have not paid any heed to our problems. We have been here for far too long than apartment residents and yet our problems get neglected," the couple bemoaned.

Compound walls of apartments washed away following heavy rain on Borewell road in Whitefield; (below) residents moving out of apartments in Whitefield. •K. MURALI KUMAR

The residents of this area alleged that along with the overflow from Nallurahalli lake and Sheelvantharakere lake, the demolition of a stop wall built next to the Rajakaluve, by the civic authorities to clear encroachments, led to the flooding of their apartments. "The apartment has been here for nearly 10 years and it has been flooded like this only after that wall was taken down. This has been the situation for over three days now. We are paying from our pockets for pumping machines. We have barely received any help from BBMP," said Chandra Kumar, resident of SS Felecity.

The situation was not better in other surrounding areas either. The inundation levels were still grim near Ecospace and other tech parks in Bellandur. Motorists were struggling to reach their destinations and there were minor traffic snarls at all important junctions. "We should continuously have a foot on the accelerator in this flooded stretch. If we take it off, then water enters the silencer and the vehicle will stop," explained Mallikarjun, a cab driver.

Tractors, boats, and rafts were still being used in many residential complexes on Sarjapur Road. However, the Fire Department staff were draining water out continuously. The situation at Rainbow Drive Colony appeared the same as compared to the previous days as water levels had not receded much.

Mechanics overwhelmed

Raghu, a mechanic in Whitefield, had not opened his shop in two days as it was flooded. On Wednesday, as soon as he opened his doors, six people dropped off their two-wheelers for service, while he received calls from more people who wanted their vehicles repaired. While some people requested the neighbourhood garage owners to tow and service their cars, many in the Mahadevapura zone called up online centres.

Officials told to set up control rooms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Following incessant rains, the State Health Commissionerate has directed officials to set up a control room for management of disease outbreaks and coordination of preparedness to handle health emergencies.

In a circular issued on Wednesday, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. has directed all hospitals to be prepared with required human resources, testing kits, lab consumables, drugs, chemicals, equipment and other logistics for treatment and management of disease outbreaks, if any. "As surge in cases of communicable diseases are also anticipated after the floods recede, it is necessary to ensure that surveillance and vector-control activities are in place, till the situation returns to normal," the circular stated.

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Umesh Katti: A colourful, controversial leader

He often said the State will be divided into north and south and that he or his son will become CM of 'northern Karnataka'

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

Umesh Vishwanath Katti, Cabinet Minister who died in Bengaluru on Tuesday night and was laid to rest on Wednesday, was a leader with a colourful personality who had tested political waters in several parties before finally settling down with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was born in 1961 into a land-owning Banajiga Lingayat family from Bellad Bagewadi in Hukkeri taluk in Belagavi district. Mr. Katti studied PU in Raja Lakhamagouda college in Belagavi only to drop out after second year to join his father's business along with his younger brother Ramesh Katti. He entered politics rather suddenly after his father's demise.

He was just out of college when he fought byelection from Hukkeri after his father Vishwanath Katti died in Bengaluru in 1989 at the age of 48.

S.S. Mahajanshetty, a candidate who lost the 1989 election, filed an election petition saying that Mr. Umesh Katti was ineligible to contest polls as he was just 24 years old. However, senior Janata Dal leaders convinced the petitioner to withdraw his case, recalls former Lokashakti leader Ashok Chandaragi.

He became Minister for the first time in the late J.H. Patel's Cabinet and served as Minister under four BJP Chief Ministers – B.S. Yediyurappa, D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Jagadish Shettar, and Basavaraj Bommai.

(Clockwise from top) Political leaders at the funeral of Minister Umesh Katti at Bellad Bagewadi in Belagavi district on Wednesday; and file photos of Katti with former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. • P.K. BADIGER

Through many parties

Mr. Umesh Katti changed parties several times through his career. He has been a member of the Janata Party, Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United), and Janata Dal (Secular), Congress, and BJP. However, he refused to join Lokashakti or All India Progressive Janata Dal parties started by his mentor Ramakrishna Hegde after the split of 1996.

He joined the BJP in 2008 in a move that has now come to be called Operation Kamala. He had won the 2008 elections from Hukkeri as a JD(S) candidate and later defected to the BJP and fought a bypoll from the saffron party.

He was among the veteran leaders in Karnataka with nearly four decades in the Assembly. He had fought nine elections and won eight of them. In his four stints as Cabinet Minister, he served in important portfolios like Agriculture, Public Works, Food and Forests.

In North Karnataka, he and his brother Mr. Ramesh have also dominated the cooperative space. The brothers and their children own or operate two sugar factories.

Controversial remarks

Known for his controversial remarks, Mr. Umesh Katti maintained that Karnataka would be divided into north Karnataka and south Karnataka and that he or his son would become the Chief Minister of northern Karnataka. Less than a year ago, a controversial audio clip in which a farmer is heard complaining to him on reduced supply of food grains under the public distribution system had gone viral. When the farmer expresses helplessness and asks the Minister how the poor should live with reduced quota of grains, Mr. Umesh Katti was heard saying, "If you cannot go on living, then it is better to die."

However, those in his inner circle argued that he was harsh in his words, but kind-hearted. His childhood friend Shreeshail Hiremath said, "His speech may have been rough but he never held grudges."

Janotsava convention put off again to Saturday

It was to be originally held on July 28

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Janotsava public convention of the BJP, which was scheduled to be held in Doddaballapura, has been postponed yet again. The event, which was scheduled for September 8, has now been postponed to September 10 due to the death of Minister and senior BJP leader Umesh Katti.

Being organised to mark the completion of one year in office by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and third anniversary of the BJP government in the State, the event was originally scheduled to be held on July 28. However, it was then abruptly cancelled due to the anguish among BJP workers in the wake of the murder of Yuva Morcha office-bearer Praveen Nettaru in Dakshina Kannada.

Other meetings too

Mr. Katti's death, that resulted in postponing of Janotsava, has had a cascading effect as the BJP has also put off its State office-bearers' meeting and State executive which were scheduled to be held on Bengaluru Palace Grounds. While the State office-bearers' meeting was scheduled to be held on September 10, the executive was scheduled for September 11.

The party is trying to use the anniversary convention being held in Dodaballapura as a ground for kick-starting its Assembly poll preparations besides strengthening its organisation in the undivided Kolar and Chickballapur districts.

The office-bearers' meeting and State executive were supposed to finalise a slew of State-level conventions being planned by the party as part of poll preparations. These meetings would be held for the first time after the elevation of veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa as member of the BJP Parliamentary Board and Central Election Committee.

I-T raid on Manipal Group

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU/MANGALURU

Personnel from the Income Tax Department conducted search and seizure on 22 premises linked to various arms of the Manipal Group on Wednesday.

Sources said raids began simultaneously early morning and targeted the finance, education and hospital verticals of the Manipal Group. Raids were on at Manipal, Mangaluru, and Bengaluru. While going to print, the raids were still on.

A spokesperson of Manipal Group refused to comment.

High cost PPAs likely to spark off tussle in monsoon session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The high cost power purchase agreements (PPAs) and related issues in power sector are expected to spark off a political tussle in the forthcoming legislature session as Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah has demanded a White Paper on comparison of PPAs between Gujarat and Karnataka particularly when the Congress ruled Karnataka.

Mr. Siddaramaiah made the demand while launching a counter attack on Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar who had accused him of causing a huge financial burden on energy sector by not releasing the subsidy amount towards consumption of irrigation pump sets.

The Energy Minister had also indicated that the high cost PPAs signed during the erstwhile Congress regime were a burden on the present dispensation by saying that the Energy Department would try to renegotiate them.

Mr. Siddaramaiah demanded that the Energy Minister should bring out a White Paper on the PPAs signed by all the States from 2010 to 2022 so that a clear picture would emerge. Similarly, the government should release documents on PPAs signed by Narendra Modi when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he demanded, and also sought that a White Paper should be brought out on comparison of PPAs between the BJP government in Gujarat and the erstwhile Congress government in Karnataka led by him.

He took serious exception to Mr. Sunil Kumar's allegation that he (Siddaramaiah) had intentionally resorted to put Escoms under financial stress to show the energy sector, especially the rural energy sector, in poor light to prepare a ground for installing meters for IP Sets. Urging him to produce any documents to substantiate his allegations, Mr. Siddaramaiah challenged him to move a resolution in the forthcoming legislature session, opposing the Electricity Bill brought out by the Narendra Modi government that has proposed to install meters for IP sets.

"If you bring such a resolution to prove your commitment, we will support it," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah defended his decision to raise loans for clearing the pending power dues by arguing that such a measure was a must to protect the financial health of the energy sector.

Referring to the Minister's statement that the Karnataka government had earned a handsome revenue by selling surplus solar power, Mr. Siddaramaiah remarked that the Minister was taking credit by selling solar power which was added to the grid by the erstwhile Congress government.

- Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah has demanded a White Paper on comparison of PPAs between Gujarat and Karnataka, particularly when the Congress ruled Karnataka.

Court permits shifting of seer to hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

The Second Additional District and Sessions Court on Wednesday permitted shifting of Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru to the nearest government hospital with cardiac healthcare facility.

The court gave permission following an application moved by the jail superintendent for providing treatment for coronary angiogram. The court sought the opinion of the counsels of the victims to the bail petition moved on behalf of Murugha Sharanaru and allowed them to file their objections on Thursday.

In a related development, the fifth accused in the case Gangadharayya appeared before the investigating officer on Tuesday.

The second accused in the POCSO case, the warden of the hostel in which the victims had stayed, has been remanded in police custody. The Second Additional District and Sessions Court allowed police custody for three days.

HC transfers further probe into criminal cases against Adikeshavulu's son to CBI

Srinivas is accused of murdering a real estate businessman in May 2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) further investigation into cases related to murder of a real estate businessman in which D.A. Srinivas, 48, son of the late D.K. Adikeshavulu (who was an industrialist, a former MP, and a former chairperson of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams), is the prime accused.

The High Court found it necessary to hand over the case to the CBI on noticing glaring lacunae in the probe conducted by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which was set up by the government on the directions of the court.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by M. Manjula and Rohith, wife and son of the late K. Raghunath, who was allegedly murdered in May 2019. Raghunath was a close associate of Adikeshavulu.

The petitioners had sought probe by the CBI due to continuous failure of the State's agencies in conducting a fair probe in the three separate FIRs registered for the offences of murder, forgery and cheating against Srinivas and others. Also, the petitioners had alleged that SIT had failed to collect any electronic evidences, including call details, and the investigation was a camouflage to protect Srinivas and his accomplices.

It was alleged after the death of Adikeshavulu in 2013, Srinivas and his close associates started pressurising and threatening Raghunath for transfer of some of the immovable properties owned by him alleging that the source of income of the properties in his [Raghunath's] name is of their father.

It was alleged that Raghunath was murdered by Srinivas and his associates as he resisted to give up the properties, and the death, which occurred at a guest house owned by Srinivas, was made to look like a suicide.

Also, it was alleged that post-mortem of Raghunath's body was done at Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Bengaluru, which owned by late Adikeshavulu's family members in connivance of police.

The petitioner had alleged that Raghunath had left home to meet Srinivas and D.A. Kalpaja, daughter of Adikeshavulu, before he was found dead.

As the city police refused to register Ms. Manjula's complaint against Srinivas and others, she filed a case before a magistrate court, which in 2020 ordered registration of a FIR.

As the HAL police, who had registered FIR, did not conduct probe expeditiously, she moved the High Court, which in April 2021 directed the government to set up an SIT headed by an officer now below the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police. Following this, the government set up SIT headed by IPS officer S.D. Sharanappa.

'B' report by SIT

The SIT filed a 'B' report before the magistrate, who in March, 2022, rejected it by stating that "SIT has not investigated the case with all fairness".

The magistrate had directed further probe by station house officer of HAL Police Station. However, the High Court said that magistrate had no power to order further probe by a different investigation officer.

Hugar community persists in fight for ST tag

Hugar, Gurav, Jeer, and Pujar groups claim they have been left out

GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
HUBBALLI

Amid the growing demand for more reservation benefits by various communities, a small community comprising of people who call themselves as "worshippers of Hanuman", mostly from northern districts of Karnataka, has been trying hard to make their voice heard.

A file photo of members of the Hugar community protesting at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

As per a rough estimate, there are around 2.5 lakh members of 10,617 families of the community, commonly identified as Hugar, Gurav, Jeer, and Pujar. They reside in the districts of Bealgavi, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Raichur, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Chitradurga, Bidar, Bengaluru, and Shivamogga. They consider themselves descendants of 'Hugar Madayya' a contemporary of the 12th-century social reformer Basaveshwra. As per available data, literates constitute 45% of the community.

Akhil Karnataka Hugar, Gurav, Jeer, Pujar Samaj Seva Sangh, has been fighting against the "injustice" that had been meted out to them by dropping them from the list of the Scheduled Tribes for the last three decades. The community members say that although they are known by different names, they belong to one genus and their customary duties and functions were identical to those of Korav, Bhajantri, Nayak, and others, which have already been extended facilities and benefits under the Scheduled Tribes list. In the Central list they are listed under the OBC (other backward classes).

"We are not being issued caste certificate under 2A as our caste name is prefixed by 'Lingayat' in most of the school certificates. As Lingayat sub-castes are listed as OBC, the tahsildar refuse to give 2A certificate and instead issue 3B," said Belagavi-based advocate Laxmikant Gurav who has been fighting for the cause.

The sangh represented by Arvind B. Hugar has already approached the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. The PMO has forwarded the issue for action to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which in turn has sent it to authorities concerned to consider the demand as per the prevalent law.

"So far 58 MLAs, 8 MPs and 9 MLCs of Karnataka have endorsed the demand and have written to the State and Centre recommending their inclusion under the ST category," said H.B. Hugar, a former government officer from the community, who has been pursuing the issue religiously.

The community says it has been denied its rights of reservation. The community members held a symbolic protest in Bengaluru recently and have urged the Chief Minister to fulfil their rightful demand and are hoping for a positive development.

FROM PAGE ONE

HC restores bribery complaint

The High Court also clarified that rejection of the complainant's plea by the then Governor for Mr. Yedyurappa's prosecution would not come in the way of the special court ordering a probe as the task of securing sanction is of the investigating agency after completion of the probe.

The complainant had sought a direction from the special court to either take cognisance of offences or order an investigation against nine persons, including Mr. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Vijayendra.

Others named

Minister S.T. Somashekar; IAS officer G.C. Prakash (then Commissioner of the BDA); Chandrakanth Ramalingam of Ramalingam Construction Company Pvt. Ltd.; Virupakashappa Yamakanamardi, husband of Ms. Padmavathi, who is one of the daughters of Mr. Yediyurappa; Shashidar Maradi, son of Ms. Padmavathi; Sanjay Sree, son-in-law Ms. Padmavathi, and K. Ravi, proprietor, 37th Crescent Hotel, Bengaluru, are the others named in the complaint.

'Special court could not have closed complaint'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said special court could have proceeded against six private persons even when it rejected the private complaint against the three public servants, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Minister S.T. Somashekar, and IAS officer G.C. Prakash (then Commissioner of the BDA).

The High Court, referring to apex court's verdicts, said that the Prevention of Corruption Act allows prosecution of only the private persons for the offences under Section 8, 9 and 10 [for taking gratification to influence public servant, etc.] of the Act even if no public servant is named in the complaint.

"Considering that the allegation made in the complaint is also for the offences under Sections 8, 9 and 10 of PC Act, the dismissal of complaint against the three public servants for want of sanction by the special court ought not to have resulted in closure of complaint against non-public servants," the High Court said.

IN BRIEF

Shah to hoist flag in Hyderabad on Sept. 17

HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is all set to hoist the National Flag, review the parade by paramilitary forces and address the public at the Parade Grounds to begin the year-long celebrations of Hyderabad Liberation Day here on September 17. Sources said that the Home Minister will be coming for a one-day visit. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai are also expected to attend the event.

Preparations begin for Munugode bypoll

HYDERABAD

The Nalgonda district administration in Telangana has commenced preparations for the byelection to Munugode Assembly constituency even before the notification was issued. Collector Vinaykrishna Reddy, Additional Collector Bhaskar, select officials and representatives of seven political parties inspected the EVMs in the Collectorate amid tight security after taking them out of godowns.

Centre allows Phase II of Kochi Metro Rail project

NEW DELHI

A Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Phase-II of the Kochi Metro Rail project from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to Infopark via Kakkanad at a cost of ₹1,957.05 crore. The preparatory works for Phase-II, 11.17-km long having 11 stations, "are progressing well", a government statement said. It added that Phase-I of the project from Aluva to Petta, covering 22 stations over 25.6 km, at an estimated cost of ₹5,181.79 crore was fully operational.

Mystery over bullet injury to fisherman; Navy denies role

Incident took place near *INS Dronacharya* where personnel practise firing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A fisherman had a miraculous escape after being hit by a bullet beneath his right ear about 1.5 km off Fort Kochi around noon on Wednesday.

Sebastian, 70, a resident of Azheekkal, was lucky to escape with five stitches since it could have very easily proved fatal.

He was part of a 30-member group of fishermen who had gone for fishing from the Kochi fishing harbour in the morning. The incident occurred when the group was returning to the harbour after fishing.

Something hit beneath his ear followed by a gush of blood. Soon the fishermen got hold of the bullet from the boat itself.

Close shave: The bullet believed to have been recovered from the fishing vessel. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The incident occurred near *INS Dronacharya* and the Navy is known to undertake fire training along the area. However, the Navy had denied any role claiming that it is not the kind of bullet they use. However, we find it very hard to accept the reason. Either way, it should be thoroughly probed," said Charles George, convener, Matsya Thozhilali Aikya Vedi.

Commander Atul Pillai, defence PRO, Kochi, said the bullet injury appeared to be from a weapon of non-military calibre. He denied involvement of the Navy or any military forces in the incident.

'Injury not serious'

The Coastal police recorded the statement of the fisherman and registered a case. "It has to be verified whether any firing had taken place in the area though the Navy has denied it," said a senior police officer.

Meanwhile, the condition of Sebastian, who was admitted to a private hospital in west Kochi, remains stable. "There is nothing serious about the injury," said hospital sources.

Hackathon for girl students in rural areas

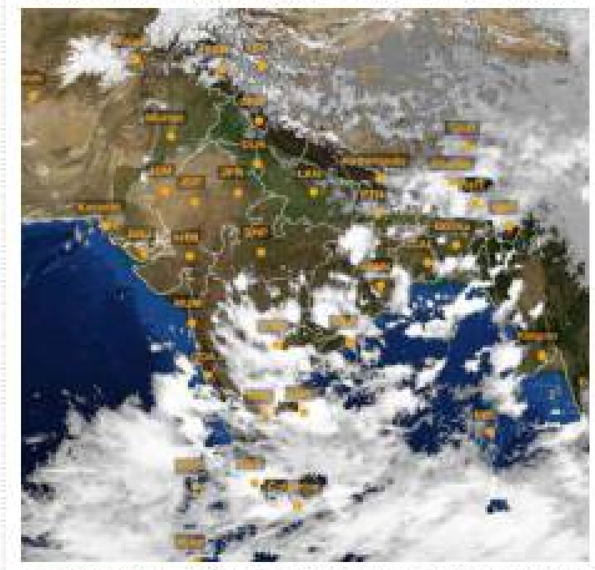
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Quest Alliance and IBM on Wednesday announced the launch of a hackathon programme to promote scientific thinking and build a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) mindset among girl students in rural Karnataka.

The initiative is expected to reach 1.2 lakh girl students from 800 high schools across the State over a three-year period, according to a release by the organisations. In the first year, the hackathon will cover 68,272 students in Chickballapur, Bengaluru, Hassan, Chitradurga, Raichur, Gadag, and Yadgir. Teachers from 800 identified schools will be trained to handhold students through their projects.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Meghalaya, Sikkim, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	35.4	26.2	Kozhikode	71	28.6	23.8
Ahmedabad	–	36.7	25.5	Kurnool	–	32.2	24.5
Aizawl	2	–	22.6	Lucknow	–	36.2	27.1
Allahabad	–	36.2	27.3	Madurai	25	32.5	24.1
Bengaluru	38.8	26.0	20.7	Mangaluru	107.6	27.2	23.3
Bhopal	22.2	33.0	23.4	Mumbai	1	32.1	26.2
Bhubaneswar	6	33.3	26.6	Mysuru	18	31.2	20.0
Chandigarh	–	36.0	25.7	New Delhi	–	37.2	25.8
Chennai	–	32.0	26.8	Patna	20	32.2	26.8
Coimbatore	–	29.9	22.5	Port Blair	20	26.0	23.8
Dehradun	–	33.7	22.9	Puducherry	10.6	32.7	22.8
Gangtok	40	21.2	17.8	Pune	18.1	29.6	22.4
Goa	0.9	31.4	24.8	Raipur	5	34.6	26.5
Guwahati	–	35.3	26.2	Ranchi	–	31.6	24.2
Hubballi	–	27.0	22.0	Shillong	36	26.5	18.0
Hyderabad	15	32.2	21.5	Shimla	–	25.1	15.3
Imphal	–	30.5	21.3	Srinagar	–	31.5	15.9
Jaipur	–	36.3	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	6	28.7	24.1
Kochi	12	27.0	24.0	Tiruchi	–	33.1	25.5
Kohima	19	26.0	17.5	Vijayawada	–	30.6	27.0
Kolkata	30	35.1	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	33.5	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	48	83	30	60	68	Good
Bengaluru	12	35	98	–	54	Good
Chennai	3	35	107	56	52	Moderate
Delhi	32	67	–	113	227	Poor
Hyderabad	40	38	94	67	78	Good
Kolkata	6	40	8	78	78	Good
Lucknow	11	125	36	85	129	Moderate
Mumbai	12	6	112	151	135	Moderate
Pune	–	37	87	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	17	51	35	61	108	Moderate

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Buxar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 272 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KUPECA refuses to postpone COMED-K counselling

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State government, which wants to postpone the COMED-K counselling for professional courses even as it appeals the Karnataka High Court order that directed it to redo CET ranking, has now hit an impasse. The Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA), which conducts the COMED-K counselling, has refused to alter its schedule.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, Higher Education minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan reportedly requested the association to postpone the COMED-K counselling till after the first round of CET-2022 counselling. However, KUPECA has refused, and in turn has requested the Minister to let them go ahead with the counselling as per schedule.

The meeting was inconclusive and Dr. Ashwath Narayan said he would chair another meeting with the representatives of KUPECA on September 13. "KEA and COMED-K will mutually consult and prepare the schedule of counselling keeping student's convenience in mind," he said.

However, Dr. M.R. Jayaram, honorary secretary, KUPECA said COMED-K was a pan-India exam and more than 70% of the students seeking seats were from outside the State.

If any local student who gets admitted to a college in COMED-K counselling and later secures a better seat in CET-2022 counselling, KUPECA has assured that they would refund the fee.

Gatti's wife urges people to read Savarkar lesson in right context

The controversial para, Yashoda Ammembala says, should be read as a metaphor and not literally

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The family of Kannada writer K.T. Gatti, whose essay on the Cellular Jail in Andaman where Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar was incarcerated had turned controversial, has released a clarification.

Yashoda Ammembala, the wife of Mr. Gatti who is unwell, while issuing a statement on his behalf, has argued the lesson 'Kalavannu Geddavaru', now part of school textbook, should be read as part of the language curriculum and not the history curriculum. "Being a travelogue, it is not meant to be considered a source for historic facts," she said in her note. The lesson in Class VIII Kannada second language textbook has been criticised for "glorification" of Savarkar.

'Not aware of inclusion'

Ms. Gatti said in her clarification, "We were not aware of its inclusion in the textbook until this controversy broke out." She said the excerpted article was part of a book published in 1996.

"Savarkar's article is only one of several accounts of prison experiences presented in the book. The rest, presented in five chapters, are based on personal interviews of two ex-jail inmates, three relatives of ex-jail inmates, a Maharashtrian jail officer, and a few other local respondents. Mr. Gatti's account of Savarkar in the book includes nothing more than is Andaman jail experiences. There is no mention of the nature of his role in the freedom struggle or any detail about his ideology."

Sources

In fact, there is no mention of Savarkar in any of the author's writings to suggest he had any information about Savarkar besides what is presented in the book. Around 30% of the chapter contains quotes from the book, 'Swatantrya Veera Savarkar' (by Mathoor Krishnamurthy, 1966). Savarkar's autobiography is also among the sources listed in the bibliography," she mentioned the statement.

'Read it as metaphor'

On one particular paragraph that had turned controversial that described Savarkar "as flying out of the prison on the wings of bulbul", she said, "It is self-evident that it is nothing but a metaphor. Much of the confusion appears to have been caused by the absence of context/reference in the passage, which may be due to the author's oversight or an editorial error... Those familiar with K. T. Gatti's literature are unlikely to assume that the metaphor was meant to glorify Savarkar by an admirer of his ideology, and may not need any clarification regarding this."

Pension for 3,000 litterateurs and artists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Kannada and Culture Department of the State has issued an order for releasing monthly pension of ₹2,000 for 3,000 eligible artists and litterateurs who submitted applications during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, seeking pension. The pension amount would be released from September 2022.

The selection committee scrutinised all applications and prepared the list of 3,000 artists and litterateurs, the order said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), BBMP, South Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: BBMP/SADH/PR/TEND/10/2022-23 Date: 07-09-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from eligible Contractors / Firms registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations and License holders from Labour Department for the construction works and Manpower Supply detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount of Work/Service (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing Security Services to Parks Pertaining to Padmanabha Nagara Constituency.	97,24,000/-	1,94,500/-
2	Providing Security Services to Parks Pertaining to Basavanagudi Constituency.	92,62,000/-	1,85,250/-

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** 2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **09-09-2022 at 11.00 AM at the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), Bengaluru - 560011.** 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **16-09-2022 upto 4.00 PM.** 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is: **17-09-2022 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ. ಮತ್ತು ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ – ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

[illegible] /2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05-09-2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (E-Proc) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

[illegible]

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	[illegible]	80.09
2.	[illegible]	49.39
3.	[illegible]	56.82
4.	[illegible] (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 40286/2ನೇ ಕರೆ)	493.83

1. [illegible] : 15-09-2022 [illegible] 5.00 [illegible]
2. [illegible] : 16-09-2022 [illegible] 5.05 [illegible]

[illegible] **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** [illegible]

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
[illegible] – ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **SRI. NALLAMOTHU SUDHEER KUMAR**, residing at Flat No: P1, Anjan Blossom, Sy. No. 1/1, Varanasi Main Road, Jinkathimanahalli, T.C. Palya, Bangalore-560036 is intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owner Sri. D. Venkatesha, S/o. Late. Doddaputtanna, major in age, R/at No.178, 6th Cross Road, Manorayanapalya, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032, for Valuable Consideration. Any persons having any rights/claims/objections/Agreements/Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of the this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within 7 days, my client shall get executed sale deed in her favour.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **land in Survey No. 32/2, (Old No.32), Situated at Lalagondanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District**, measuring 01 acres 05 Guntas and property being bounded on the **East by:** Land in Same Survey No. belongs to Puttanna, **West by:** Land in Survey No. belongs to Shamanna, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Hoovinathotada Munivenkatappas Land.

From: **Mr. Manjunath Reddy, Smt. T. Shobha Reddy.**
No. 8/7, Mega City BEML Layout Road, Maragondanahalli Main Road, K.R. Puram Post, Bangalore-36.
Ph:- 9845520830, 7353233778, 9663885875

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform and caution the public in general that 'Godrej Tyson Foods Limited' (**"Godrej"**) has entered into various Agreements by paying sale considerations to purchase the following properties:
(i) Survey No.105, admeasuring 2 Acres 34 Guntas, (ii) Survey No.106/1, admeasuring 1 Acre 19 Guntas, and (iii) Survey No.106/2, admeasuring 1 Acre 5 Guntas,
All of which are situated at Dodda Hullur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural District (**"said Properties"**).
However, certain disputes have arisen between the Godrej and the Vendors of the said properties. The disputes are sub judice before the Hon'ble Court of the I Additional Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru in O.S. No.1081/2019, O.S. No.1082/2019, and O.S. No. 1083/2019.
The general public is hereby notified and cautioned, not to enter into any transaction(s) of any nature whatsoever, pertaining to the said properties, in view of the above pending legal proceedings. Any person who has, either in the past, or future, will be doing so at their own risk, cost, and legal consequences. Any such transaction, effected in respect of the said properties, or any part thereof are legally invalid. Such transactions shall not be binding on Godrej, and shall be subject to the outcome of the Hon'ble Court in the above pending legal proceedings.

Sd/- for **Godrej Tyson Foods Limited**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
No.5/6, 5th Floor, Jalabhavana, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Tel : 080 – 26539004 / 41106504-18
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

DBOT tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal from eligible Agency/Contractors as detailed below:

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Nyamathi-WSS/TND/928/2022-23 Dt: 07-09-2022

Name and description of work : Providing Water Supply System to Nyamathi town through Design, Build, Operate & Transfer (DBOT)

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT 3214.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 3110.95

Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs) : 31.11

Tender Processing fee (Rs.) : As per e-procurement portal

Period of completion including monsoon (months) : 24 months.

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Nyamathi-UGD/TND/929/2022-23 Dt: 07-09-2022

Name and description of work : Providing UGD System to Nyamathi town through Design, Build, Operate & Transfer (DBOT)

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT 3215.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 2137.44

Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs) : 21.38

Tender Processing fee (Rs.) : As per e-procurement portal

Period of completion including monsoon (months) : 24 months.

Calendar of Events:-

1) Documents will be available from : 08-09-2022 after 11.00 hours. 2) Last Date & Time for seeking Queries / Clarifications 22-09-2022 upto 11.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre bid meeting 22-09-2022 at 11.30 hours. 4) Last date and time for submission/uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal.: 07-10-2022 upto 17.30 hours. 5) Date and time for opening of Technical bid : 11-10-2022 after 11.00 hours. 6) Date and time for opening of Financial bid: 17-10-2022 after 11.00 hours

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-Procurement help desk +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777, e-mail support: support@eprochelpdesk.com.

DIPR/CP/2109/AKAR/22-23

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B), KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tendersf for the following works.

1. No.:SEE/Tr.(M)/BRAZ/AEE(C)/JE(C)-1&2/2022-23/3198-03 Date: 06.09.2022

KPTCL invites Tenders for 03 numbers of Civil Engineering Works (Capital Works and Repair & Maintenance). coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (Ele), Trans. (Maint), BRAZ, KPTCL, Bengaluru.

2. No.:SEE/Tr.(M)/BRAZ/AEE(C)/JE(C)-1&2/2022-23/3204-07 Date: 06.09.2022

KPTCL invites Tenders for 01 number of Providing Housekeeping Services at KPTCL 400KV station, KIADB, Devanahalli Hardware Park, Bagaluru, Bengaluru. coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (Ele), Trans. (Maint), BRAZ, KPTCL, Bengaluru.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.09.2022**.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.) Transmission (M), BRAZ Circle, KPTCL, U.A.S Campus, Hebbala, Bengaluru-560 024.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-19/2022-23: Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 1000 mm^2 Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 40MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformer with 33kV Transformer bays at 220/132/33kV Grid Substation, Dhamara at Balimunda & Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 630 mm^2 Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 20MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformer with 33kV Transformer bays at 2X20 MVA Grid Substation, Chandipur, at an estimated cost of the package for Rs.4.41 Crore on Turnkey Contract Basis.

2)E-Tender Notice No. CPC-20/2022-23: Procurement of 15nos. of 250KVA, 33/0.433kV Station Transformers (BIS Energy Level-2), at an estimated cost of Rs.79,91,550/-.

Complete set of bidding documents are available on the tender portal: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in**.

HIPR-23/2022-23 Sd/- SGM(CPC)
CAD-1737 OIPR-04011/11/0090/2223

Government of Karnataka
District Surveillance Unit, Mandya.
District Health and Family Welfare Office Premises, Mandya. Phone :- 08232-220417
E-mail :- idsp.mandya@gmail.com
No. :- DSU/Mdy/15fc/nfds/150/2022-23
Date:-03.09.2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

15th Finance Commission National Free Drug Service Programme Procurement of Medical equipments/Consumables, Kits and Chemical Reagentsas per KTTP-1999 Act-2000
(1) Tender Notification Date : **No: DSO/Mandya/15FC/NFDS/150/2022-23Date : 03-09.2022.** (2) Starting date to upload Tender Form Date: **06-09-2022.** (3) Last date to upload Tender Form Date: **07-10-2022, 05:00 PM.** (4) Technical Bid Opening Date, time and Place District HFW Office, Mandya.Date: **10-10-2022, 11:00 AM.** (5) Financial Bid Opening Date, time and Place : District HFW Office, Mandya Dist Date: **12.10.2022 11:00 AM.** (6) Tender Total Amount : **Rs. 1,61,68,000/-.** (7) EMD Amount : **Rs. 4,04,200/-.** (8) Corresponding Officer and Adress : **District Surveillance Officer, Mandya District Health and Family Welfare Office Premises, Mandya.Contact us Office Hours.08232-220737, 9449843264** (9) Web Site Address : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-Member Secretary and District Surveillance Officer, Mandya

DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/323/2022-23

The Spirit of 1971

India and Bangladesh must focus on future cooperation based on past partnership

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing state visit to India and meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi have resulted in positive outcomes and seven agreements, which include the conclusion of the first water sharing agreement in 26 years, the launch of free trade agreement talks, and infrastructure projects particularly in the railways sector. The water sharing agreement on the Kushiyara, which was preceded by the first Joint River Commission meeting in 12 years, is a particularly hopeful sign on resolving water management, and a very contentious issue, of 54 trans-boundary rivers. While there has been a smaller agreement on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs from the Feni in the interim period, the Kushiyara agreement is the first time the Centre has been able to bring on board Assam and other north-eastern States, for the agreement since the 1996 Ganga water treaty. However, the Teesta agreement, of 2011, held up by West Bengal, remains elusive, a point Ms. Hasina made several times. Clearly, the Teesta river agreement will require more efforts by the Modi government, and flexibility from the Mamata Banerjee-led State government, if the deal is to be sealed soon. The timeline grows more important for Ms. Hasina, who is due to hold elections at the end of next year, after three terms in office. Much of her focus was also on attracting investment by Indian industry, which now constitutes a small fraction of Bangladesh's FDI inflows. Ms. Hasina made particular mention of two dedicated Special Economic Zones for Indian companies, coming up at Mongla and Mirsarai.

Ms. Hasina's visit, which follows her previous state visit in 2017, and Mr. Modi's visit to Bangladesh in 2021, have set India-Bangladesh ties on a firmer footing, and on course for closer engagement in trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties. However, the positive trend in ties goes further back, to Ms. Hasina's advent to power in 2009, her unilateral moves to shut down terror training camps, and to hand over more than 20 wanted criminals and terror suspects to India. It is incumbent on New Delhi, which has benefited from such outcomes and the turnaround in relations with what used to be an inimical neighbour, to be equally sensitive to Dhaka's concerns, particularly when it comes to comments made by ruling party leaders on deporting Rohingya refugees, comparing undocumented migrants to "termites", the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and more recent references to annexing Bangladesh for "Akhand Bharat". While cross-border sensitivities in South Asia often run high over such political rhetoric, it is necessary that New Delhi and Dhaka remain focused on their future cooperation, built on their past partnership, and what is referred to as the "Spirit of 1971".

Uncertain future

Chileans have rejected a new Constitution, but they still need to replace the old one

Chilean voters' decision to reject a new Constitution that would have replaced the 1980 charter written under the brutal military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet could deepen the country's political divisions and throw its future into uncertainty. The new document, supported by Chile's 36-year-old leftist President Gabriel Boric, would have transformed South America's most free market-friendly country into a state-driven, rights-rich welfare society. But the voters seem to have concluded that the draft went too far. With almost all votes counted, 62% of voters said 'No'. The Constitution drafting process itself was the result of months-long social and political struggles. Chile witnessed street protests in 2019 – triggered by a modest rise in subway fares – which prompted then President Sebastián Piñera to promise to rewrite the Constitution. Despite amendments, the Pinochet-era Constitution remains a pro-business, pro-market document, restricting state intervention in the economy. While Chile has seen fast development ever since its market reforms, it has also grown into one of the most unequal countries in the region, leading to disquiet. Mr. Boric rose from this chaos. In his election campaign in 2021, he had promised a new beginning. The referendum was his best opportunity to rewrite Chile's future. But Mr. Boric and his comrades seem to have lost the momentum.

The 170-page, 388-Article document promised to legalise abortion, provide universal health care, mandate gender parity in government, empower labour unions, and tighten regulations on mining. It also sought to define Chile as a "plurinational" state that would recognise its 11 Indigenous groups, who make up some 13% of the population – they could have their own governing structures and legal systems. This proposal became the rallying cry of the rejection camp which argued that the enhanced rights of the indigenous communities (including veto powers on big-ticket projects) and the limits the new Constitution would place on security agencies would promote anarchy. Rising inflation and a militant uprising by the Mapuche community made it difficult for Mr. Boric to sell the proposals to voters. Chile is now back to square one. The old Constitution would remain in force until Chile's political class finds a way ahead. Mr. Boric has promised to repeat the Constitution process – elections to the constituent assembly and then preparation of another draft that is put to a referendum – which would take time. The conservatives and centrists, who ruled Chile since the fall of the dictatorship, would try to maximise their interests in the coming elections. But political struggles could only make the political crisis worse. As Chileans have demanded the old Constitution be repealed and replaced, it is for the politicians to provide them a document that they would support. For that, they should start with building consensus on the future of the country.

How ideology muddled inflation control in India

The agencies responsible for macroeconomic policy have hitched their wagon to Anglo-American economics

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India reportedly stated that the inflation rate would be brought to its target level of 4% within 24 months. It had been above this level for 34 consecutive months already. If the prognosis is correct, by 2024 it would have remained off target for close to five years. In the United States and the United Kingdom, the inflation rate has been off target for a lesser period, but it has lately run at rates close to four times the target. What credibility do the world's central banks have if they fail so egregiously in delivering on their mandate? Though the characteristics of India's economy vary substantially when compared to those of the industrialised West, their governments follow the same approach to inflation control, termed 'inflation targeting' and implemented by their central banks. It would be reasonable to surmise then that the approach is ineffectual because it is flawed in its imagination.

A particular problem

The approach to inflation currently favoured in Anglo-American economics is the result of an evolution lasting close to a century. In the 1930s, the world faced an unprecedented crisis with the capitalist economies plunging into depression. We can now see that this was a particular problem of such economies, for the Soviet Union was unaffected. The Great Depression was as much a crisis for the economics profession, for it was expected to come up with ideas on how the global economy could be lifted out of the morass it had sunk into. The central banks were rendered helpless, for monetary policy, the preferred macroeconomic instrument, proved to be impotent under the circumstances. The profession responded momentously, through the publication by J.M. Keynes of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*. It provided the insight that at times, capitalist economies would require "the socialisation of investment", by which he meant that the state would have to shoulder the burden of maintaining demand in the economy through its fiscal policy.

At some level, the message that when private investment was depressed public investment must take over, is no more than an application of economic accounting, but the proposal triggered an ideological backlash. Not all economists of the time were well disposed to the government intervention and larger public deficits, even when temporary, that was being advocated. However, confirmation of the validity of Keynesian economics came from an unexpected source. Hitler, through greater public spending on roads and armaments, showed that a market economy would respond to a Keynesian stimuli, and nothing like the hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic followed.

Impact of 'oil shocks'

The Keynesian principle continued to work after the war, when the reconstruction of Europe meant that aggregate demand was maintained by public spending on the infrastructure that had been destroyed. The consequent unprecedented rise in living standards came to an abrupt end, though, with the two 'oil shocks' of the 1970s, when the petroleum exporting countries combined to

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hike the price of oil. This both sucked demand out of the oil importing countries and gave rise to inflation in them. Stagflation, a combination of inflation and stagnant output, followed. It is indeed correct that *The General Theory* was unprepared for this phenomenon, but a complete explanation of it was quickly provided by the Keynesian economist Nicholas Kaldor, and possible solutions identified. This did not receive wide enough acknowledgement, however, and a revival of pre-Keynesian economics, with its assumption of a self-regulating economy, occurred. Its leader, Milton Friedman, argued that in an unfettered market economy, unemployment would tend towards the 'natural' level, where presumably everyone who wishes to work would be working.

Inflation targeting

Accordingly, public policy should not target unemployment, attempting which could destabilise the economy, and focus on inflation alone. And, inflation was solely a function of money supply growth which must always be controlled. Friedman's assertion of the optimality of the market gained impetus after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. His diagnosis of inflation led to a clamour for central banks to be made independent of politicians and given an exclusive mandate to target inflation. The arrangement came to be known as inflation targeting, with the claim that the central bank can fine tune inflation by moving the interest rate. The Anglo-American orientation of India's policy makers meant that this view of inflation control came to be adopted in this country too.

The allure of inflation targeting is the implicit premise that the authorities, in this case the central bank of a country, will now be both devoted to and capable of controlling inflation. Nothing demonstrates that the latter is make-believe more than the runaway inflation presently on view across the world. Inflation in the U.S. and the U.K., the epicentres of the Friedmanite revolution in economics, is far higher than the targets set for their central banks by their governments.

The question is whether this reflects a lack of commitment on the part of the central banks of these countries or their inability to do anything in the face of an inflation sparked off by a rise in commodity prices, notably the price of oil and food, as is the case today. Obviously, it is the latter. Nothing else can explain inflation rates that are over four times the announced target. Faced with high inflation, Europe's policymakers exhort that central banks should raise the interest rate further, even if it means triggering a recession. But we can now see that this is no permanent solution to a supply-side driven inflation as the present one is. Even if it were to be granted that the global inflation of the 1970s was contained by the policies advocated by Friedman, we see the problem is back four decades later, driven this time by the disruption of global supply chains due to the war in Ukraine. A recession works to lower inflation when it does by lowering output, and thereby demand; it cannot increase supply, a shortfall in which had caused the inflation to start with.

In the face of the evident failure of monetary policy in controlling inflation globally today, central bankers concerned with retaining their relevance make a renewed case for it by arguing that by pursuing a high-interest-rate policy, central banks can 'anchor' the expectation of inflation, and thereby inflation itself.

But why would economic agents harbour such an illusion when forming expectations of inflation? "How," they are bound to ask, "can a central bank ever achieve this?" A central bank can dampen expectations of a depreciation of its national currency so long as it holds sufficient reserves of the dollar. However, would it have any leverage when it comes to commodity price expectations? No central bank holds stocks of petroleum or wheat. Therefore, it can never directly influence commodity prices, and the public knows this only too well. Having established itself by arguing that Keynesian economics has no explanation of stagflation, the challenge to it finds its own remedy for inflation discredited.

In India

Coming back to India, there exists published research demonstrating that household expectation of inflation, based on data released by the Reserve Bank of India, is not a determinant of it. This makes it difficult to claim that inflation targeting, which is supposed to work via the central bank's 'anchoring' of expectations, works in India. We have long known what needs to be done to control inflation in India, but the agencies responsible for macroeconomic policy ignore this knowledge when they hitch their wagon to the ideology of Anglo-American economics. The consequences are there to see.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat

The hits and misses in TANGEDCO's tariff petition

There needs to be an overarching energy policy that addresses environmental issues and also ensures affordable supply

MARTIN SCHERFLER & SANDHYA SUNDARARAGAVAN

For the first time in years, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) has submitted a petition which proposes an annual increase of tariff by 6%. Reeling under the weight of mounting debts and long-pending payments to generators, this was a long anticipated step.

Key reasons

One of the reasons for TANGEDCO's poor financial health is that tariffs have not been revised on an annual basis, thereby resulting in a gap between average revenue requirement and average cost of supply. Continuous under-recovery over the years and the cancellation and or delay of projects have adversely impacted TANGEDCO's capability to upgrade and modernise its distribution network and hindered the transition towards a smart grid future. Hence, the proposal of an annual adjustment of tariffs by the rate of inflation is a positive step – this will not only provide more predictability to its consumers but also avoid the one-time steep tariff increase every few years.

It is a welcome step to protect its smaller consumers from the tariff impact in this petition. However, some of the additional tariff categories in this petition may be open to interpretation under non-verifiable conditions. Hence, a simplification of the tariff structures which is easier to comprehend could be considered.

Green tariffs, other charges

Green tariffs have been emerging as an alternative renewable energy procurement model for commercial and industrial consumers. However, TANGEDCO's proposed premium green tariff, at 150% of the applicable tariff rate, may dissuade consumers from availing this. Green tariffs, if properly designed, could help TANGEDCO reduce sales migration of commercial and industrial consumers to open access while at the same time provide export-oriented industries with an opportunity to meet their sustainability commitments.

There is a steep increase in demand (fixed) charges for high tension consumers in this petition – more than 100% as compared to the last tariff order. Wheeling charges for open access have been increased from existing ₹0.21/unit to ₹1.52/unit for High Tension consumers (an increase of 624%). This may make Tamil Nadu one of the most expensive open access markets in the country, potentially impacting the industrial attractiveness of the State.

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The inclusion of all high tension consumers (except lift irrigation) under the time-of-day tariff is a positive step, but this could have also included low tension consumers. The domestic consumer category is a main contributor to the evening peak load. In Tamil Nadu, the domestic consumer category (LT I-A) accounted for 41.28% (30,390 MU) of the total energy sales in the financial year 2020-21. Therefore, including the domestic consumer category under the time-of-day tariff and a detailed loss reduction plan could potentially result in cost savings for TANGEDCO.

Coal and renewables

TANGEDCO is planning to meet 87% of the expected increase in power demand from thermal power plants and only 13% from renewables. Commissioning of the announced coal power plants will lock-in TANGEDCO with a high fixed cost and could result in more expensive power for consumers in the years to come – 1,890 MW of TANGEDCO's coal plants are 30 years and older, and are up for retirement. Also, 4,320 MW of TANGEDCO's own-coal power plants need to be retrofitted with flue gas desulphurisation systems, which will further increase the per unit cost.

According to the Ministry of Power, TANGEDCO is to meet 35.95% of its energy from renewables by the financial year 2026-27 as in its renewable purchase obligations. However, less than half of the mandated target is shown in TANGEDCO projections. Additionally, it is not clear how the Ministry of Power notified storage obligation (starting from 1% in the financial year 2024 to 2.5% by financial year 2027), 20 GW solar by 2023 (as per the memorandum of understanding signed between Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (a Government of India Enterprise) and the Tamil Nadu government) and 3,600 MW rooftop solar (as per the Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019) are considered in this petition.

Large-scale solar and onshore wind technologies have increasingly become cheaper than coal-powered plants and have continued to create employment opportunities. It will be useful for the utility to carve out a robust strategy to assess the risks associated with building new thermal power plants, especially in view of the State's long-term energy security.

Focus on sustainability

While there is a strong equity focus in this petition, sustainability must also receive priority. Despite the climate change commitments, there are still plans to add coal capacities in the State's electricity mix, as in the petition. Holistic scenario planning and exploring integration of distributed generation, storage, rooftop solar, green hydrogen, and offshore wind, will be helpful in visualising Tamil Nadu's energy future, as well as building a climate-resilient infrastructure.

It is time to design an overarching integrated energy policy that addresses environmental issues, fosters economic development, and ensures reliable, secure and affordable energy supply for all. It must also inform the decision-making process on tariff determination in view of the State's vision for a cleaner energy future.

Martin Scherfler is co-founder at Auroville Consulting. Sandhya Sundararagavan is the Lead on the Energy Transitions team at the World Resources Institute, India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Ties with Dhaka

The friendship, trust and good neighbourliness between New Delhi and Dhaka should be strengthened, which will also help find a solution to the piquant subject of the sharing of Teesta waters among other issues. The 'sharing ratio' can be arrived at mutually. Trade and commerce, particularly the import of garments from Bangladesh and export of India's pharmaceutical products, should be among the elements of a strong relationship.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

■ If India is committed to the Teesta water-sharing pact, it would be the biggest takeaway for Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, marking a breakthrough in a politically sensitive issue, not only between the two countries but also within Bangladesh. A failure to conclude the agreement would weaken the standing of Ms. Hasina before the general election in Bangladesh. She has been criticised by her opponents for "selling out" to India. If India fails to resolve the issue, it could lose an ally.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The ties are an example of the advantages of good friendship and cooperation. There are some problems to be resolved, but the general state of ties is a reminder that people in the subcontinent can be one.

BLESSEY CAROLINE M.R.,
Chennai

■ The relationship between the two neighbours has been cordial ever since the liberation of Bangladesh with the staunch support of India, in 1971. Ms. Hasina's visit should pave the way for a further strengthening of ties, which is possible only if India sorts out the knots in all vital bilateral issues.

N. SHANTHA KUMAR,
Bengaluru

■ India has gained much from improved ties with Bangladesh. Therefore, New Delhi must critically analyse the problems affecting long-standing issues. Amid the backdrop of the remarks on the Prophet and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, it is time India finds solutions and also counters the inroads being made by China.

M.P. YUVARAJ,
Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu

Liz Truss it is

Liz Truss assuming leadership role in the United Kingdom comes at a time when the U.K. is experiencing grave economic conditions. Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine are to blame for the sorry state of affairs. The U.K. is vulnerable because of political and economic unpredictability. That said, India could have a lot to look forward to in terms of robust trade. Ms. Truss can be counted among senior British politicians known for championing deeper India-U.K. strategic and economic ties, even describing them as a "sweet spot" of global trade dynamics.

BOBEN SAJI GEORGE,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Ms. Truss, will not have an easy run, prime among her many tasks being finding a solution to the cost-of-living crisis in the U.K. Ms. Truss's political views have also changed. Despite a perception of her committing gaffes and executing U-turns, there will be much interest in her tax-cutting agenda.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ Ms. Truss's ascendance to the top job was a foregone conclusion as it was very unlikely that the British would have chosen someone who was not of native ethnicity. For India, Ms. Truss can be counted as an ally. She cannot afford to ignore the substantial Indian vote bank in the U.K.

RAJU MATHAI,
Kochi, Kerala

Politics and the 3Ds

Some of the recent comments by Tamil Nadu BJP State leader K. Annamalai, in his spat with members of the ruling party smack of immaturity. In political discourse, there needs to be decency, decorum and dignity. The fourth D, 'derisive language', should not find a place.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

Nature left untouched

The interest former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had in preserving the beauty spots of the country while welcoming commercial activities should be an eye-opener for many in the political class in India (OpEd page - 'From The Archives', September 7). So strong was her view that she was in favour of rerouting the new rail link connecting Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari and Trivandrum. If memory serves me right, I think her plea was considered.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

The evolving role of CSR in funding NGOs

Beyond signing cheques, corporates are recognising that what's good for society is good for business

PRITHA VENKATACHALAM & KANIKA GUPTA

• GETTY IMAGES

When COVID-19 spurred a nationwide lockdown in India in 2020, a grave need for localised social support emerged. Giving, both private and public, flowed to NGOs working towards combating pandemic-induced challenges such as loss of livelihood for vulnerable communities, food banks, and health and medical support.

In any such social effort, programme expenses attract the big cheques – especially when they come from corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in India. For example, an NGO working on education outcomes might receive funding for books, other online resources, teacher training, curriculum design, etc. But NGOs have other expenses too. In order to achieve long-term and sustained impact, they need to pay for administrative and support expenses not specifically tied to programmes– for instance, rent, electricity, technology and human resource costs. These organisational development and indirect costs, combined with programme expenses, make up an NGOs' true costs. And underfunding an NGO's true costs reduces the efficacy and impact of the very programmes that funders support.

To understand how funders and NGOs perceive an NGO's true costs, and what it takes to build a financially resilient social sector, we surveyed and interviewed over 500 NGOs, funders and intermediary organisations across India as part of our multi-year Pay-What-It-Takes-India initiative.

The funder archetypes

Based on a recent survey of nearly 80 diverse social sector funders, we discovered three distinct funder archetypes – programme proponents, adaptive funders, and organisation builders. The three archetypes represent different beliefs in terms of how philanthropy becomes impact. And those beliefs manifest in different practices around funding indirect costs and organisational development. Programme proponents value programme outcomes above all. Adaptive funders are not rigid and support indirect costs and organisational development, if the NGO makes a case. Organisation builders see value in investing in stronger organisations in addition to programmes.

CSR funders, who now represent a fifth of all private giving in India, principally fall under programme proponents. They mostly contribute little or no money to organisational development and limit what they pay for indirect costs to a fixed rate often below 5%. Our 2020 primary research showed that NGOs' indirect costs range from 5% to 55%, depending on their mission and operating model, much as a corporate's sales and administration costs vary significantly by industry and product.

These practices are partly a consequence of CSR funders' focus on regulatory compliance – amendments to the CSR law in 2021 include substantial financial penalties for non-compliance. Roughly 90% of the CSR funders are relatively small, unlisted companies – and companies that spend less than ₹50 lakh annually on CSR are not required by law to have a CSR committee. They generally leave decision-making and action plans to company boards, who may have little to no experience working with NGOs or on social impact. Hence, their priorities tend to sway towards risk avoidance, compliance, and cost minimisation. Several larger companies have added CSR to the responsibilities of their HR or administration or communications head, rather than hiring professional leads, experienced in the social sector.

Further, not every company is aware of all the facets of the CSR rules they are complying with. For instance, the 5% cap on administrative overhead costs is applicable only to a business' internal CSR operation cost, not to the grantee's administrative costs, as is widely perceived. Many CSRs make errors on safety with the unintended consequence of leaving an NGO with unpaid bills or worse still, drawing on its scarce core funding from other donors to pay for these essential costs.

How might this change? For one thing, companies can pool their resources with other mission-aligned CSR or social sector stakeholders, increasing their collective impact potential, and also hire or tap into professionals with experience working with NGOs. Since 2020, the number of philanthropic collaboratives, such as the Migrants Resilience Collaborative that supports migrant workers or Revive Alliance that finances semi- and unskilled workers, have more than doubled.

Learn from peer organisations

In addition, CSR funders would learn from peers who view organisational development and indirect costs differently. For example, ASK Foundation, the CSR arm of ASK Group, is working to enable better livelihoods for rural communities. Until four years ago, the ASK gave annual programme grants to NGOs, limited indirect cost coverage to between 5% and 10%, and did not provide organisational development expenses. Then, it shifted to a multi-year grant making approach and started providing up to 20% support for indirect costs. The shift in practice came after the CSR team presented benchmarks of the higher rates paid by peer CSR organisations and the beneficial effects of a stronger NGO partner on its programme outcomes. These peer examples and impact stories were instrumental in ASK getting board approval for changing its NGO funding policy.

The pandemic also exposed how vulnerable NGOs are to financial stress. Our research revealed that 54% of NGOs had less than three months in reserve funds in September 2020. This number stood at 38% before the pandemic. Without adequate reserves, NGOs cannot pay salaries or bills when faced with an unexpected funding shortfall.

The CSR programmes cannot currently contribute to NGO reserves/corpus by law. However, by covering indirect costs and organisational development, they still help to relieve financial pressure and make organisations more resilient. What's more, corporates have considerable accounting and finance capabilities that they can offer to NGOs, in addition to their funding. NGOs don't have clear financial reporting standards and many lack the internal capabilities to undertake a true-cost analysis. A corporate that has developed a relationship of mutual trust with an NGO could offer volunteer financial analysis services to help the NGO calculate true costs and communicate with other funders, and build financial resilience.

Not many CSR funders think this way right now, but CSR practices are maturing. As our research has shown, more CSR decision-makers are shifting their focus from compliance with CSR laws to the social impact they are making. CSR funders are following several themes to make this transition, such as hiring professionals, coming together in collaboratives, and defining and publishing their impact metrics to hold themselves accountable. The idea is to move beyond signing cheques to recognising that, ultimately, what's good for Indian society is also good for business.

Pritha Venkatachalam is Partner and Co-Head, Asia and Africa, and Kanika Gupta is Senior Associate Consultant, Bridgespan Group.

Time for a joint space exercise

If India is to become a defence power, then an Indo-U.S. military collaboration in every field is necessary

VINAYAK DALMIA & VRINDA KAPOOR

India and the U.S. will undertake joint military drills in October in Auli, Uttarakhand. Auli is at an altitude of 10,000 feet and some 95 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The time is ripe for the inaugural India-U.S. joint space military exercise. First, this single act will push India's defence partnership into a new orbit. Second, it will send a strong message to a common adversary. Third, it will have other ripple effects for the wider Quad.

Space has been singled out as a critical area of cooperation in the recent Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting between India and the U.S. For the first time in history, both countries are jointly staring at a common adversary. Nothing binds friends together as sharing the same displacement anxiety.

A military domain

Space as a military domain is a well-accepted fact. In 2019, the U.S. stood up its space force as a branch under the department of the Air Force. At the time, it became the world's only independent space force. In India, historically, space has remained the sole jurisdiction of its civilian space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). However, the successful demonstration (dubbed Mission Shakti) of anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test in 2019 changed things forever. The same year, India conducted its first ever simulated space warfare exercise (IndSpaceX) with an eye on Chinese threats.

Furthermore, the launch of the tri-service Defence Space Agency (DSA) has permanently taken the military away from the shadows of civil space. The government has also set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA) to help develop space-based weapons for the DSA. Space is as much recognised as a military domain as land, water, air and cyber.

India and the U.S. do drills on land, in air and at sea. Why not extend it to the fourth domain? It is inevitable as both countries can expect the exact same conversation happening in their adversary's strategy rooms.

It will have actionable spill overs for the Quad, transform the moribund DTTI from a talk shop and send the right message to the adversary.

The lowest hanging fruit would be a joint anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test. It is essentially a missile launched from the Earth's surface to destroy a satellite passing overhead. Both countries have demonstrated capability in this. The test would be against a simulated orbital target as that does not create space debris and is not included in the wording of the U.S. moratorium.

Eventually, this will lead to other space military collaborations such as directed energy weapons, rendezvous and proximity operations (RPOs), co-orbital ASATs (in space micro satellites as a kinetic kill option), etc.

Space programmes

Every country worth its weight in salt is working on the military aspects of space. France conducted its first space military exercise, ASTERX, in 2021. China is marching ahead to the Cis-Lunar space (region beyond the geosynchronous orbit) with an ambition to establish a permanent presence on the Moon by 2024.

The doctrine in space is still evolving with the U.S. urging partner countries to lay down rules and norms. China and Russia have released a draft binding treaty of their own. Red lines and norms will eventually emerge but until then it provides an ideal new theatre to push Indo-U.S. military collaboration forward.

Space has assets that form the bedrock of the modern economy – GPS (PNT – position navigation timing), telecom networks, early warning systems for missiles and weather forecasts all are enabled by our satellites in GEO or LEO orbits.

But there could be some expected push-back from the usual naysayers. First, it will provoke our eastern neighbour and compel them to draw a new redline. Second, our eastern neighbour will use our western neighbour as a proxy state. Third, it will derail the ongoing Core Commanders dialogue in Ladakh. Fourth, the United States cannot be trusted. Fifth, it will fastback militarisation for space. Our response to all the above is that it is an inevitable trend unfortunately, notwithstanding our action or inaction.

Changing times now require us to innovate on doctrines, technologies and deterrence. Xi Jinping is on his way to building a "world-class" Chinese military by 2049. If India is to become a space power and if the Indo-U.S. partnership is to become the alliance of alliances, then imaginative steps will be needed.

It is time for the India-U.S. military collaboration to get bolder and travel from mountains to outer heavens.

The authors work at the intersection of national security and technology

STATE OF PLAY

Congress and the Tharoor factor

The diplomat-turned-politician has positioned himself as an alternative to the establishment

BIJU GOVIND

Outwardly, Congress leaders from Kerala appear neutral on the possible candidature of Shashi Tharoor for the Congress president's post, but their real stance on the sitting MP from Thiruvananthapuram running for the office in the upcoming organisational polls remains unclear.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran said that if Mr. Tharoor wishes to contest the polls, there is nothing wrong in it as the Congress is a democratic party.

Although Mr. Tharoor said that he would take a final call on entering the fray only after the election notification was issued, he wants the speculation of his possible candidacy to be a kite-flying exercise because he knows that a candidate not sponsored by the Gandhi family will be at a huge disadvantage.

Therefore, it is still uncertain whether Mr. Tharoor would eventually take a shot at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president's post.

Nonetheless, like any shrewd politician, Mr. Tharoor has been keeping people guessing. When, for instance, he was asked whether the next Congress president should be from a Hindi-speaking State, Mr. Tharoor said, "See, these days if you have to be in politics, you need to speak Hindi. People from the south are able to speak Hindi. I, too, can do it."

But, he first has to charm Congress leaders in his home State, of which most are said to be Gandhi loyalists. Considering his stature, the role of Congress Working Committee member A.K. Antony, a steadfast supporter of the Gandhi family, will be keenly watched. Mr. Antony has not taken any position on the organisational polls after the Gandhi family made it clear that none from the family will be contesting.

Then there is the looming presence of AICC general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal, a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, whose disapproval can hurt Mr. Tharoor badly. But it is also a fact that now the Congress party in Kerala is driven by a new crop of independent-minded and feisty leaders such as V.D. Satheesan, for whom Mr. Tharoor could be a promising choice.

Since he is identified with the dissident G-23, the chances of Mr. Tharoor emerging as a compromise candidate in the event of loyalists such as Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge opting out of the race look bleak. Mr. Tharoor was not among the G-23 leaders the Gandhi family had tried to engage after the ginger group sought an organisational rejig and called for collective and inclusive leadership.

He has already positioned himself as an alternative to the traditional Congress establishment symbolised by the Gandhi family. Like Manish Tewari and Karti Chidambaram, Mr. Tharoor has also called for transparency in the poll process and has written to the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry, demanding the publication of electoral rolls for the upcoming poll to the post of AICC president. This looks like a show of defiance as this demand was already shot down by Mr. Venugopal saying that the Congress presidential poll was an in-house process and that electoral rolls need not be made public.

As a former international diplomat, public intellectual and a best-selling author, Mr. Tharoor is also a non-conformist who had several run-ins with former KPCC presidents. This trait in him perhaps provokes sneers in traditional Congressmen but for the aspirational middle class, a constituency the Congress can ignore only at its peril. Mr. Tharoor is definitely perceived to be a class apart. But to get elected as the AICC president, only the votes of these Congressmen count.

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DATA POINT

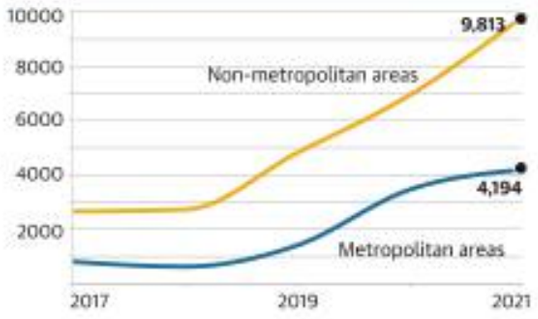
Cyber criminals now after non-urban residents

With the awareness improving in urban pockets, cyber criminals are increasingly targetting bank customers from non-metropolitan areas. Frauds related to credit/debit cards, OTP, online banking and ATMs have all recorded a steady increase in the non-metropolitan areas in 2021, while among cities with over 2 million population, the case count has stagnated. This trend has to be watched closely given the increasing number of bank accounts in rural areas. Worryingly, about 25% of cyber fraud investigations are closed with the final report saying "cases true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue". And even among those few which reach the court, less than 1% end in convictions. So, often in such cases, prevention is better than cure.

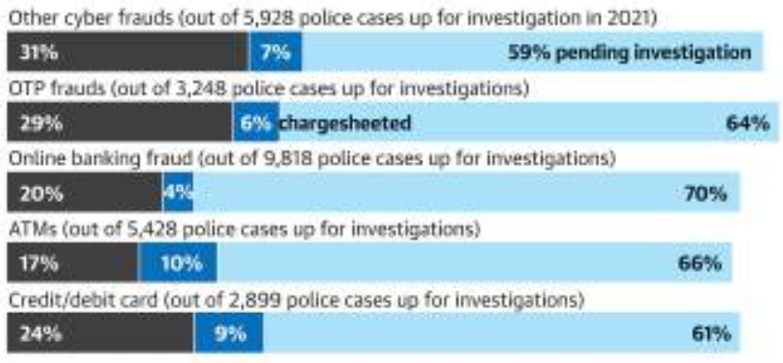
By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1 Moving away

The chart shows the **number of registered cyber fraud cases** which includes frauds involving credit/debit card, OTP, online banking, ATMs and other similar products. ● denotes cases in 19 metropolitan cities with over 2 million population and ● shows cases in other places

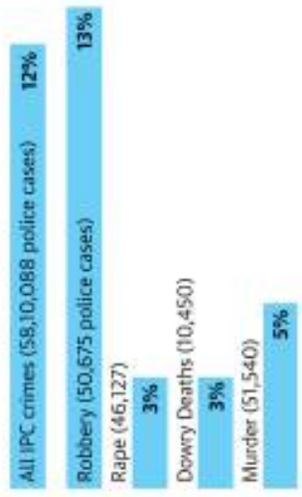


2 True but no evidence | In 2021, between 17-31% of cyber frauds cases were closed by the police with the final report mentioning ● "cases true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue", and only 4-10% got ● chargesheeted. An overwhelming share of cases continue to be in limbo ● pending investigation



3 Physical crimes

In 2021, the **share of cases closed by the police as "true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue"** ranged between 3-13% in violent physical crimes. The average for all IPC crimes is 12%. This comparison brings out the fact that in cyber crimes, police have to deal with digital evidence and so find it harder to pursue than physical crimes



4 Poor convictions

In 2021, the share of cyber fraud cases which resulted in convictions ● ranged between 0-0.8% and the share of cases completed ● ranged between 0.2 and 1.4%. An overwhelming share of cases remained pending ● at the end of the year

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 8, 1972

Resumption of Olympics

Jerusalem, Sept. 7: Israel yesterday began a seven-day mourning period for its 11 dead Olympic sportsmen amid the spectre of possible armed revenge of the Arab terrorist attack at the Olympic Games. Mixed with the gloomy atmosphere throughout the nation was a feeling of anger at the decision to continue the games. Israel had expected – without actually demanding – that they would be cancelled. The Government warned that it would "not save the terrorists' accomplices" from responsibility for the bloodshed. The Government withheld official comment on the decision to continue the games, but Israeli officials privately did not conceal their annoyance. About a thousand young people, chanting slogans and waving banners, yesterday staged a loud but peaceful demonstration in front of the Bonn Embassy in Tel Aviv against the continuation of the Olympic games. Later, addressing about 3,000 students in Jerusalem's Independence Square, Israeli Minister Joseph Burg criticised the Olympic Committee's decision to resume and to complete the games. The nine Israelis killed at the Fuerstenfeldbruck airport in West Germany and two in the first attack on the Olympic Village at dawn on Tuesday will be given a State funeral in Israel.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 8, 1922

Malabar relief

Calicut: The Executive Committee of the Malabar Central Relief Committee met on September 6, Dewan Bahadur Varghese presiding. Mr. Madhava Rao explained how the existing stocks of rice at various centres were, at the suggestion of the workers and District Collector, being distributed as charity, which will last the people in most places for one month and how this decision will cost the Committee nearly Rs. 10,000. The Committee approved of this and authorised the Secretary to appeal to Madras, Bombay and other funds and individuals to remit their entire collections and subscriptions immediately to Calicut. The Committee says nearly 5,200 families are being relieved with cloth and other things during this month. The Committee thanked Mr. Suryanarayana Rao of the Servants of India who have worked very hard in Calicut and who is now in Madras for explaining the Committee's position in Calicut to the Secretaries of Malabar Relief Fund, Madras.

FROM PAGE ONE

Rahul Gandhi calls for defending Tricolour

He started the day with a prayer meeting at the Rajiv Gandhi memorial at Sriperumbudur, where his father was assassinated by LTTE suicide bombers.

"I lost my father to the politics of hate and division. I will not lose my beloved country to it too. Love will conquer hate. Hope will defeat fear. Together, we will overcome," Mr. Gandhi tweeted. In the evening, addressing a rally that saw an impressive turnout, Mr. Gandhi explained the need for Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"It is very important that we bring the people of India together and make sure they are united so that India remains strong. And that is the aim of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' which is designed to listen to the people of India," he said.

Along with him, 118 party workers and leaders, classified as Bharat yatris, will walk the entire distance of 3,570 km and will cover a distance of 22-25 km on average every day.

Divisive agenda

The Bharat Jodo Yatra not only seeks to highlight the "socially divisive agenda of the Narendra Modi government and the BJP" but also issues like inflation and unemployment ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"Today every single institution is under attack by the BJP. They think that this flag is their personal property. They think they can singlehandedly determine the future of this country and the future of the States of this country. They think they can frighten the opposition using ED, CBI, Income Tax [department]. The problem is that they do not understand the Indian people. The Indian people do not get scared. It doesn't matter how many hours of interrogation they do... not a single opposition leader is going to be scared of the BJP," Mr. Gandhi said.

"The BJP thinks it can divide the country on the lines of religion and language, but the country will always remain united," he added.

The former Congress chief alleged that the BJP government had systematically attacked farmers, labourers and small and medium businesses.

India, Bangladesh laud panel on Ganga waters

"The leaders welcomed the formation of a joint technical committee to conduct a study for optimum utilisation of water received by Bangladesh under the provisions of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996," the joint statement said. The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a 30-year agreement which is expected to be reviewed or renewed in 2026.

The Indian side also raised the "urgent" irrigation-related requirements in Tripura which can be addressed with the waters of the Feni, and urged Bangladesh for "early signing of the interim water sharing agreement" on the river.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina reviewed the upcoming bilateral connectivity initiatives involving railway tracks and rolling stock.

These include the conversion to dual gauge the Tongi-Akhaura line, supply of rolling stock, Kaunia-Lalmonirhat-Mogalhat-New Gitaldaha link and Hili-Birampur upgradation of track. Similar works are also on on the Benapole-Jashore and Burimari-Changrabandha lines. These multiple rail track projects will create a smooth flow of goods and people within Bangladesh overcoming infrastructure bottlenecks. India and Bangladesh have been in talks for the construction of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Sirajganj in the north-west of capital Dhaka and help in movement of bulk items.

Both the delegations appreciated the growth in bilateral trade but Bangladesh sought "predictable" supply of "essential food commodities .... such as rice, wheat, sugar, onion, ginger and garlic."

Both sides also took steps to connect the energy supply lines and make them synchronous. The leaders "agreed to expeditiously implement" projects to connect the power grids of both sides through the proposed high capacity 765 kV transmission line from Katihar in Bihar to Bornagar in Assam through Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

In a separate event, Ms. Hasina awarded the Mujib scholarships to 200 descendants of the Indian soldiers who were martyred or injured in the 1971 war. She will travel to Ajmer Sharif on Thursday.

Cabinet approves PM SHRI scheme

Government schools will be selected if a State agrees to implement NEP in 'entirety'

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the 'PM Schools for Rising India' (PM SHRI) scheme to turn existing government schools into model schools for implementation of the National Education Policy, 2022.

The scheme will be implemented as a Centrally sponsored scheme with a total project cost of ₹27,360 crore, with the Centre's share being ₹18,128 crore for the period of five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27 for transforming nearly 14,500 schools across the country.

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan (left) and Anurag Thakur addressing media on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

However, schools will be selected only if the State government agrees to implement the NEP "in entirety with the Centre laying down commitments for supporting these schools for achieving specified quality parameters" to become PM SHRI schools, according to a press statement of the Ministry of Education. These schools will also be "monitored vigorously" to assess their progress in implementing NEP.

The scheme has been announced at a time when some States, including Tamil Nadu, continue to oppose the NEP for imposing a centralised education system on the entire country when education is a State subject as well as enforcing the three-language policy under which students will learn three languages out of which two have to be native to India. Other grounds for opposition include mandatory school entry at three years, which could leave out many from marginalised communities, promotion of vocational courses from Class 6 at the cost of formal education, as well as the option to exit schools in Class 10 with the option to re-enter in Class 11.

"A school will receive nearly ₹2 crore, and the money will be transferred directly to the school's account through Direct Benefit Transfer. The principal or the local committee will be given the flexibility to determine the use of 40% of the fund," Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said at a press conference.

The PM SHRI scheme also provides a "School Quality Assessment Framework" which will be developed for measuring key performance indicators for carrying out quality evaluation of schools selected from the current academic year.

The quality parameters that will be evaluated once a school is selected for the scheme will include implementation of NEP 2020, student registry for tracking enrolment and learning progress, improvement in learning outcomes of each child to achieve levels above State and national average, linkage of school with higher education institutions and local entrepreneurial ecosystem for mentoring as well as creating "students rooted in the heritage of India, proud of values of Bharat, conscious of duties towards society and responsibilities towards nation-building".

Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the scheme and said there was a need to pay attention to all government schools, which he said were worse than "*kabaadkhana*" (scrapyard). "You have only prepared a scheme for 14,500 schools. There are more than 10 lakh government schools in the country," he wrote

I-T Dept. searches in 100 locations

Fraud through unrecognised parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Income-Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday conducted searches at more than 100 locations in different parts of the country in connection with suspected tax evasion through several unrecognised political parties. The searches were carried out in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States.

The move came after the Election Commission of India (ECI), in June this year, ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognised political parties that were found to be "non-existent". Information related to three of these parties was also shared with the Department of Revenue for legal action in view of "serious financial impropriety".

On May 25, the ECI had deleted 87 non-existent registered unrecognised political parties. It had earlier announced that it would take action against over 2,100 registered unrecognised political parties for violating the rules. The alleged violations also pertained to donations made to these parties.

The EC had also forwarded lists of 1,897, 2,202 and 2,351 parties for action under the Representation of the People Act and the Income Tax Act, as they had not submitted the annual contribution reports for the financial years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. As it turned out, 66 such parties had claimed I-T exemptions without submitting the required reports.

According to a January-2022 report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased to more than twice in 10 years – from 1,112 in 2010 to 2,858 in 2021. It observed that the figure would go up disproportionately during the year of parliamentary elections.

Political parties are exempted from Income Tax if they submit their I-T returns to the Department and details of the donations above ₹.20,000 to the EC annually. Even those parties which declare that they did not receive any donation above ₹20,000 get the exemption.

The ADR report stated that the annual audit reports of only 230 or 8.23% of the total 2,796 registered unrecognised parties were available in the public domain for 2019-20. As on September 23, 2021, the number of such parties was 767 in Uttar Pradesh, 66 in Punjab, 37 in Uttarakhand, 10 in Goa and nine in Manipur.

The report also pointed out that there were 2,858 political parties registered with the Commission, of which 97.83% were unrecognised parties.

Coal scam: CBI searches Bengal Minister's properties

Agency has filed a chargesheet against 41 people in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday conducted searches at half-a-dozen properties and the residence of West Bengal Law Minister Moloy Ghatak in connection with the investigation in the coal pilferage scam. The officials conducted searches at the Minister's residence at Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district, and in Kolkata at Alipore, Lake Gardens, and near Raj Bhavan. According to the investigation agency, the search was carried out after the Minister failed to appear before the agency despite summons being issued to him several times.

Under scanner: Moloy Ghatak accuses the investigation agencies of trying to malign him. • DEBASISH BHADURI

"I have been summoned as a witness and I have cooperated with the investigation," Mr. Ghatak told journalists later in the evening. The Minister said that his phone had been seized by officials and investigators found ₹14,000 from his residence, which they did not put on the seizure list. Responding to questions by journalists on why he was being summoned, the Minister said, "only attempt is to malign". Mr. Ghatak also added that as the State's Law Minister, there were a number of classified documents at his residence which the CBI went through.

An MLA from Asansol Uttar, Mr. Ghatak is an influential Trinamool Congress leader. The agencies started an investigation into the coal pilferage scam in November 2020.

The scam involves fraudulently misappropriating coal from the coal reserve of leasehold areas under the dominion of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), and also from coal stock parked in Railway sidings for sale and supply. The ECL coal mines from where the coal is alleged to have been stolen are located in Kunustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol.

The CBI had in July 2022 filed a chargesheet against 41 persons in the scam, which includes public servants of ECL and a former youth leader Vinay Mishra. Mr. Mishra is absconding and agencies have issued a look out notice against him.

Along with the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also probing the coal scam. The ED and CBI have also questioned TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the scam. On September 2, 2022 the ED had questioned Mr. Banerjee for over six hours in connection with the scam in Kolkata.

The party leadership targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday and accused him of "spinning propaganda against those who oppose his inept Government".

In another development, a court in Asansol rejected the bail petition of TMC leader Anubrata Mondal in connection with the cross-border cattle smuggling scam. Mr. Mondal, the TMC district president of Birbhum, has been remanded to 14 days of judicial custody.

IN BRIEF

Nutrition scam: 'CAG report is not final'

RAIPUR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said that the findings of a recent audit report that talk of purported irregularities in the nutrition programme for women and children were not final. "This is not the final report of the CAG. This is a preliminary report, on which the department is yet to present its side. An amount of [₹]35 crores was stopped for providing sub-par nutritional level during the Congress regime," tweeted Mr. Chouhan.

Statute Bench to hear Shinde's claim on party

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench on Wednesday decided to hear on September 27 the question whether the Election Commission of India can hear Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's claim over the Shiv Sena party and its symbol. "We will list the interim applications on the question whether the Election Commission should go on or not. We will decide this on September 27. We will see if any directions are necessary for the Election Commission or not," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said.

Centre-Delhi dispute may be heard on Sept. 27

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday listed the dispute between the Centre and Delhi government for control over bureaucrats in the Capital on September 27. The five-judge Bench, however, said the hearing may tentatively begin from October 11. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said they were appearing before another Constitution Bench, which may begin hearing on the question of reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) of society from September 13.

'Salaries delayed due to imminent revival of SDF'

CHANDIGARH

After finding itself in a soup over the delay in the payment of salaries to its employees, Punjab government on Wednesday said the pay was held up as the State was gearing up for the revival of the Special Drawing Facility. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said the majority of pending payments had been made with the day's release by the treasury and any other pending payments should be released within a few days, adding that the the delay was all due to an exercise done to ensure long-term financial welfare of State.

NDMC adopts new name for Rajpath

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Rajpath and Central Vista Lawns in New Delhi will now be known as "Kartavya Path" after the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in a special council meeting on Wednesday, approved a proposal to rename the iconic stretch, according to a public notice issued by the civic body.

Referring to the renaming, Union Minister and NDMC member Meenakshi Lekhi said that the name "Rajpath" reflected a "colonial mindset". During British rule, Rajpath was known as Kingsway.

Ms. Lekhi said that the change came into effect "immediately" after the council meeting, while Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - who is also a member of the NDMC - was not present at the meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will inaugurate the "Kartavya Path" and unveil a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

Cabinet approves policy on leasing railway land

300 cargo terminals to be developed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the revised policy for railway land, allowing leasing of such land for cargo use for longer periods at lower costs.

The move is expected to enable integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals, helping improve revenues for the Railways.

As per the new policy, the land can be now leased for cargo-related activities for up to 35 years (as against five years earlier) at 1.5% of market value of land per annum, down from 6% earlier.

Additionally, 300 cargo terminals would be developed over next five years and about 1.2 lakh employment would be generated. The existing entities using railway land for cargo terminals will have the option to switch to the new policy regime after transparent and competitive bidding process.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Ministry of Railway's proposal to revise the railways' land policy to implement PM Gati Shakti framework (Cargo related activities, Public utilities & Railway's exclusive use)," an official release said.

It added that this would help in attracting more cargo to the Railways and increase its modal share in freight transportation thereby reducing logistics cost of the industry.

The move is also expected to speed up plans for divestment of 30.8% in Container Corporation of India Ltd. that was announced in 2019. The company's shares on Wednesday closed higher by 8.58% or ₹57.45 at ₹726.65/per share on the BSE.

The policy also provides for use of railway land to set up solar plants at a nominal cost, and encourages development of social infrastructure at an annual fee of ₹1 per sq. m per annum.

Positive secularism is allowed, student to SC in hijab case

State should show 'reasonable accommodation': counsel

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

India believes in 'positive secularism' based on tolerance of all religious faiths and not 'negative secularism' followed in countries like France which holds that display of religion in public is offensive, Aishat Shifa, a student from Karnataka who has challenged the ban on wearing hijab to school, told the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Ms. Shifa's lawyer, senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, said all religions are different paths to God.

"But do all religions accept this? That there is only one God... Is that stream of thought accepted by all religions?" Justice Hemant Gupta, leading Bench comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, asked.

Mr. Kamat replied that the Constitution itself says that all religions have to be treated with equal respect. He said the Supreme Court has also held in the Aruna Roy judgment that there should

be no discrimination on the ground of any religion.

The senior lawyer said the State should show 'reasonable accommodation' of Muslim students' right to wear hijab to school as a part of her expression, religion and dignity. "If you say the right to dress is a fundamental right then the right to undress also becomes a fundamental right..." Justice Gupta remarked.

"No one is undressing in school, My Lord," Mr. Kamat replied. He referred to a South African judgment which said that display of religious and cultural practices in educational institutions should treated as a "pageant of diversity".

The State can only restrict her right in three circumstances, Mr. Kamat noted. One, to protect public order, morality and health. Two, to protect another fundamental right. Three, if such a restriction is authorised by a law made to regulate or restrict any economic, financial, political or secular activity which may be associated with religious practice or to provide for social welfare and reform".

"Secularism does not mean that students of only one faith are banned from their displaying their religious identity," he argued. At one point, the court asked Mr. Kamat how quoting foreign judgments would help his case in the Indian context.

"Their judgment came in the context of their societies. We are a conservative society," Justice Gupta said. "But let us allow good things to flow, as the Vedas say," Mr. Kamat replied.

Professor from Chennai to head mathematics panel

Sanoli Gun is the first chief of AOWM

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN
CHENNAI

The Committee for Women in Mathematics, which is a part of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), announced on its website that the Asia-Oceania Women in Mathematics (AOWM), the continental organisation for women mathematicians, has been established by an online meeting on August 1.

With over 200 founding members from the continents, the organisation will have as its first president Sanoli Gun, a Professor of Mathematics at The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, who specialises in Number Theory. There are two vice-presidents – Melissa Tacy from University of Auckland, New Zealand, and Polly Sy from University of Philippines Diliman, Philippines – and executive committee members including women mathematicians from Korea, Indonesia, Japan, China, Kazhakstan and Iran.

Sanoli Gun

The IMU is the body that awards the Fields Medals, the highest honour in mathematics.

"We have to set the tone, and generate funds to actually make all the programmes happen. We have to create a logo and a website to start with. We also have to integrate... Asia is a very diverse continent, and there is Oceania," said Prof. Gun.

The goal of committee is threefold - facilitate exchange of knowledge between all the member countries, and improve the number of women mathematicians working on their Ph.Ds in mathematics and the mathematical sciences.

India faces threat of civil war, says Gehlot

Rajasthan Chief Minister makes fresh pitch for Rahul Gandhi to take over as Congress president

SANDEEP PHUKAN
KANNIYAKUMARI

The country could plunge into civil war if hatred over caste and religion is allowed to spread, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Wednesday even as he made a fresh pitch for Rahul Gandhi to take back charge as the Congress president in these "challenging" times.

Addressing a press conference before the formal launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanniyakumari, Mr. Gehlot said there was a need to give the call for "Bharat Jodo" as an atmosphere of hate and violence had been encouraged in the country for the first time since Independence. "We have been requesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi that you should appeal that there be love, brotherhood and harmony among people and violence will not be tolerated. He has not done so till now," he said.

"There is so much polarisation, hate has been created in the name of caste and religion. If this is not controlled, it can go towards civil war," Mr. Gehlot added.

March begins: Congress leaders during the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kanniyakumari on Wednesday. • PTI

Making a fresh pitch for Mr. Gandhi to take over as the Congress chief, Mr. Gehlot, who is seen as a strong contender himself, said the party would be strengthened to meet the challenges. "Why does every party member say that Rahul Gandhi should become party chief. Today also, why Congress men and women are after Rahul Gandhi that he becomes president, because if he becomes president, the party will remain united."

Freedom movement

Later, addressing a public rally after the formal launch of the yatra, general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal lauded Mr. Gandhi's courage and said, "Nobody can scare our leader."

Mr. Venugopal said just as the Congress had fought the British, "it is now time for fight for a second 'freedom movement' against the fear created by the BJP government".

Launching a scathing attack on the divisive agenda of the BJP and the RSS, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Today, once again, our country is being chained by the poisonous ideas of communal polarisation, religious and linguistic hatred, majoritarianism and caste discrimination."

Countering Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's comment, Jairam Ramesh said, "I don't take Assam CM seriously, because he has to prove his loyalty every day after having been a part of Congress for 20-25 years. He is a recent migrant to the BJP, so he has to make outrageous statements every day. I think the Assam CM is boyish, immature."

Himanta takes swipe at Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday took a swipe at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi ahead of the launching of the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanniyakumari.

Terming the campaign as a "comedy of the century", Mr. Sarma advised Mr. Gandhi to go to Pakistan for the campaign. "The Bharat that we live in today is resilient, robust, and united. India was divided in 1947 due to Congress," Mr. Sarma said.

"There is no benefit of starting this yatra in India. Rahul Gandhi should go to Pakistan for 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' if they want unification," he said on Twitter.

Rajasthan candidate Tanishka tops NEET

Over 9.9 lakh candidates clear exam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tanishka from Rajasthan, Vatsa Ashish Batra from Delhi, Hrishikesh N. Gangule and Rucha Pawashe are the top four rank holders of the medical entrance exam, or the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the result for which was declared late on Wednesday night.

More than 18 lakh students had appeared for the exam.

Each of these candidates scored 715 marks and 99.99 percentile in the NEET-Under Graduate exam.

A total of 18.72 lakh students appeared for the exam held on July 17. As many as 9.93 lakh qualified, of which 4.47 lakh are students from the Other Backward Classes, 1.31 lakh from the Scheduled Castes, 47,295 the Scheduled Tribes, 84,070 from the economically weaker sections and 2.82 lakh from the general category.

Among the top 50 rank-holders, the maximum number of candidates were from Karnataka with nine, followed by Delhi and Telangana with five candidates each. The National Testing Agency provides all-India rank to the candidates, following which the admitting authorities draw a merit list for MBBS and BDS seats.

The highest number of candidates who have qualified for the exam are from Uttar Pradesh (1.17 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (1.13 lakh) and Rajasthan (82,548).

(With PTI inputs)

Two militants killed in J&K, two arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two militants, affiliated with the Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind (AuGH), were killed in a "chance" encounter with the police in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Wednesday.

"The terrorists were identified as Fayaz Kumar and Owais Khan," Additional Director-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

"They were involved in several terror attacks, including an attack on police personnel in Cheeniwooder Srigufwara on July 03, 2022, in which one police personnel, Firdous Dar, got seriously injured," he said.

In a separate operation, two "hybrid" militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested, along with arms and ammunition in south Kashmir's Shopian district. The police identified the militants as Faizan Fayaz Bhat of Rafiabad and Yawar Nizam Mir of Konso Shopian.

IN BRIEF

Uddhav Thackeray denied permission to meet Raut

MUMBAI

Uddhav Thackeray was denied permission to meet his close aide and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut at Arthur Road Jail on Wednesday, since such a meeting can only be allowed after a favourable court order.

No ground blocked for Dasara rally: Fadnavis

PUNE

Amid the tussle between the Shiv Sena factions over the conduct of the Dasara rally at Shivaji Park, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said the Maharashtra govern- ment had not blocked any grounds for the rally as being claimed by the Uddhav faction.

Kejriwal appeals to Modi for canal dispute solution

CHANDIGARH

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal along with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann started the party's 'Make India number one' campaign from Haryana's Hisar, even as Mr. Kejriwal asked PM Modi to find a solution to Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal dispute.

Opposition unity against BJP is in national interest: Nitish

Bihar Chief Minister says he will take forward dialogue with parties

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Opposition unity against the BJP is in the national interest, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Wednesday after meeting Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) patriarch Sharad Pawar. Mr. Kumar indicated that he would return to Delhi to take this dialogue forward to unite all parties – even political opponents such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress.

Speaking to reporters after his meeting, Mr. Kumar said, "If the Opposition fights together, then the country will finally see *vikas* (development). The BJP is not doing anything, all that they are interested is to grab the country."

Mr. Kumar reiterated that he was not talking about Opposition unity for his own interest. "My only interest is to bring the Opposition parties together," he said.

Mr. Kumar said the talks for bringing the Opposition parties together would continue. On the prime ministerial candidate, he said the parties would sit together and decide, if need be. He counted himself out of this race.

Reaching out: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with NCP chief Sharad Pawar in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

Mr. Kumar fielded questions on the Congress's role in such an Opposition bloc and if his efforts would bring the AAP and the Congress, which have kept distance from each other, under one umbrella.

"I am making every effort and if what I hope for happens and all the parties come together then the outcome of 2024 Lok Sabha election will be in national interest," he added.

He said he would return to Delhi to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who is abroad. The response from the Opposition leaders whom he met over the past few days was positive, Mr. Kumar stated.

'Bihar model'

Earlier, Mr. Kumar met Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya. The meeting, Mr. Kumar, said, was on how to run the government and ensure development of the State with consensus.

The CPI(ML) released a statement after the meeting saying that both leaders discussed the strategy to stop the BJP's "bulldozer *raj*" in the country.

Mr. Bhattacharya said, "We want that what happened in Bihar should happen on a national level. In Bihar, the BJP was left alone and other parties came together. This Bihar model should be repeated across the nation. Nitish *ji* is working hard and hard work will bear fruit."

Mr. Kumar also met President Droupadi Murmu in the evening.

BJP to expand interactions with political parties from other countries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Wednesday said the party would soon be hosting delegations of political parties from other countries to expand the ambit of interactions. Mr. Nadda was interacting with the heads of foreign missions in India, as part of the 'Know the BJP' campaign.

In the past, Mr. Nadda had hosted Nguyen Van Nen, a politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Pushpa Kamal Dahal, chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

Nine countries

On Thursday, he met the heads of missions of South Africa, Paraguay, Netherlands, Mexico, Colombia, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Maldives and Mali, the party's foreign affairs department in-charge Vijay Chauthaiwale said. Mr. Nadda has so far met the heads of missions of 56 countries.

The BJP chief highlighted various welfare measures taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and also spoke on various facets of the party, including its ideology and organisational journey. Mr. Chauthaiwale, national general secretary Vinod Tawde and national spokesperson Nalin Kohli were also present during the interaction.

BJP's growth

A documentary on the BJP's journey since 1951 was also shown to the dignitaries, the party said in a statement, adding that Mr. Nadda later answered the questions of diplomats. Mr. Nadda recalled the party's history, its struggle and electoral successes, the changes that the BJP governments had brought at the Centre and in the States, and also the future plans of the party.

He also described various social activities and initiatives of the party during COVID-19, it said. "During the meeting, the heads of mission were very curious about BJP's organisation structure and how it has handled such a huge organisation. Questions were also asked about the party's political strategy," Mr. Chauthaiwale said.

Most of the participants made suggestions on people-to-people and party-to-party contact and exchange of ideas between the political parties, the statement added.

Govt. extends ceasefire with NSCN faction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has extended the ceasefire agreement with the Niki Sumi faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. The Ministry said that a ceasefire agreement was in operation between the Government of India and the NSCN (K).

"It was decided to extend the Ceasefire Agreement with the NSCN (K) Niki for a period of one year with effect from 08.09.2022 to 07.09.2023," the Ministry said in a statement. It first signed the agreement in 2021. Sumi is wanted by the NIA for allegedly planning the attack on an Army convoy in Manipur in 2015 in which 18 soldiers were killed.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: MAS/EGS/ET/19/2022-2023 Dated 05.09.2022
1. Name of work: CHENNAI DIVISION - Power supply arrangements and provision of lighting arrangements for Foot Over Bridges and Platform shelters in various sections
2. E-Tender Notice Number: MAS/EGS/ET/19/2022-2023 dated 05-09-2022.
3. Tender Number: ME-29-II-1007RB-2022
4. Value of work: ₹ 1,49,49,221/-
Further details regarding the tender may please be viewed from www.ireps.gov.in
SR.DEE/G/MAS
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	TOTAL
1.	SE/Transmission-II	T-2259, T-2261, T.2264, T.2250	4
2.	CE/P&C	PC1067	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app, www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tneb
DIPR/…/Tender/2022

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
क्रमांक :– 881 दिनांक :– 07/09/2022
ई – बिड सूचना संख्या :– जोन दक्षिण/06/2022–23
जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से सिविल कार्यों हेतु मुहरबंद बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, बिड बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, बिड शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.jodhpurjda.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
NIB Code: JOD2223A0091
UBN No.:- JOD2223WSOB00155
राज.संवाद/सी/22/7388 अधिशाषी अभियंता (जोन-दक्षिण)

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office: 1st Floor, Hudco Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online bids are invited to procure 500 MW RTC power from 15th September 2022 to 15th November 2022 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-13/RUVNL/FY 2022-23. May visit website www.mstcecommerce.com / www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvnl for further details.
Raj.samwad/C/22/7527 Superintending Engineer (PP)

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
The Chief Engineer, Procurement & Contracts Department, WBSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan, 4th Floor, Bidhannagar, Block-DJ, Sec-II, Kolkata-700091 invites E-Tender followed by Reverse Auction (Tender cum Auction) from genuine manufacturers only for manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of the following item:

Tender Notice No. & Description of Item	Qty.	Estimated Value (approx. in Rs.)	Last date of submission of Tender
Tender Notice No. P-30/2022-23/PC-IV			
11 kV 200 A O/D Rocking type TPGO Isolator	10000 Set	5.75 Cr.	17.10.2022 (at 14:00 Hrs)

Tenders are to be submitted online through https://wbtenders.gov.in. Further details of the Tender Notice may be had from www.wbsedcl.in and the above-mentioned office (Ph. No.: 033-23599786).
ICA-T15895(3)/2022

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, K R Pura Division, Old Madras Road, K R Pura, Bengaluru - 560 036
No: EE/KRP/TND/07/2022-23 Date: 07.09.2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (K.R. Pura) invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/any State or Central Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Est. Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
	Single Cover System		
1.	Flood preventive and Emergency works in Ward No-55 Devasandra (Call-2) (SC Reserve)	40.00	40,000/-
	Two Cover System		
2.	Providing Seating Arrangements, Lightings and Sounding & Other Interior Works to Auditorium Building at Govt First Grade College Premises in K R Pura Ward No-52 (Call-3)	300.00	4,50,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Sl. No. 1 Reserved for SC. (2) Availability of RFP Documents on 08.09.2022 onwards. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 13.09.2022 at 11:30 am in the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura, BBMP (For Work Sl No.2) (4) Last Date for Tender Queries & Clarifications is 16.09.2022 upto 4:00 pm. (5) Last Date Submission of Tender Documents on or before 17.09.2022 at 4:00 pm. (6) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division on 19.09.2022 at 4:00 pm (For Work Sl No.2). (7) Tenders will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, KR Pura Division on 19.09.2022 at 4:00 pm Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer - K R Pura Division
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
'A Mini Ratna Company'
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal https://gem.gov.in.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st floor, sector-16 Gandhinagar-382016, Gujarat
Tender Notice
The tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the appointment of agency for "Development of Public Plaza and Transport hub in front of Vadnagar Railway station at Vadnagar,Gujarat." Estimated Cost of the Project: Rs.14,69,73,346/-.The interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document form the website: www.nprocure.com from 09/09/2022 onward. Last date of submission on online: 26/09/2022 up to 3.00pm.Tender may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com.
Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9646123323)
Tender Inquiry No. PPR - 24/2022 Dated: 05.09.2022
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st Oct 2022 to 31st Oct 2022. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 05.09.2022 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com
C-344/22 PSPCL-76155/12/1092/2021/16854

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(MAHATMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12867 Date: 05.09.2022
ABSTRACT "e" TENDER NOTIFICATION
Bids in two covers are invited through "e" Procurement Portal (Website URL: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for the work of Design, Supply, Erection & commissioning of Numerical Relays for Generator and Generator Transformer protection for Units - 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 & 8 at MGHE Power House, from regular Manufacturer/ Supplier/ Service provider and shall have proven experience in the field of Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning to generating stations/ power sectors/ reputed organizations as specified in the pre-qualifying requirement. Last date for online submission if tenders: 06.10.2022 up to 16.00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bid: 07.10.2022 at 16.30 Hrs. and Financial Bid: 08.10.2022 at 16.45 Hrs. Further details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer (EM&O), MGHE Works, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577 435, Sagar - Tq., Shivamogga - Dist. Karnataka. Mobile: 94495 98853.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
REGD OFFICE: Sri Sai Towers, Door No.10-152/1, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashok Nagar, Beside Siris Company, Bandar Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada - 520007.
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Lr. No. Mktg/1 /Paddy Procurement/2022-23 Dt:07.09.2022
EMPANELMENT OF SUPPLIERS THROUGH AP e-Procurement e-reverse AUCTION PLATFORM FOR SUPPLY OF 3500 (Approx.) OF BLUETOOTH HAND HELD PRINTERS TO APSCSCL FOR UTILIZATION AT PPCs AT RBKs IN ANDHRA PRADESH.
Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., invites tenders for appointment of suppliers for supply of 3500 (Approx.) of Bluetooth Hand Held Printers. For registration, interested Suppliers of Bluetooth Hand Held Printers from all over India may visit www.apeprocurement.gov.in or www.apscscl.in to view and download tender documents at free of cost.
The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates are mentioned in website www.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact the help desk of procurement portal, Phone numbers: 08645 - 246370/71/72/73/74.
Last date for online registration and completion of formalities for the e- Reverse auction shall be up to 3.00 pm of 16.09.2022 and the tentative date of online e-auction through e- procurement auction platform would be on 20.09.2022.
Sd/- VC & Managing Director

PURABI DAIRY
West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2022-23/07 Dated: 8th September, 2022
e-Procurement Tender Notice
The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following items from the eligible bidder as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Category	Date of publishing tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	LN2 Container (Capacity: 3 ltr, 35 ltr & 50 ltr)	10-09-2022	10-10-2022
2	Laptop & Desktop PC	12-09-2022	12-10-2022
3	SS Can (Capacity: 5 litre & 10 litre)	20-09-2022	20-10-2022
4	Milking Machine	21-09-2022	21-10-2022
5	Milk Collection Equipment	22-09-2022	22-10-2022
6	Mechanized Silage making machine (Cutting, chaffing & packing)	24-09-2022	25-10-2022
7	Almirah, Table & Chair	28-09-2022	28-10-2022

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum will be issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.
Sd/- Managing Director

Army undertakes major infra drive along LAC in Arunachal

Road infrastructure, aviation facilities, upgrade of communications planned

DINAKAR PERI
DINJAN

After significantly upgrading firepower and infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, the Army is on a major drive for capability and infrastructure development in the rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

This includes road, bridges, tunnels, habitat and storage facilities, aviation facilities and upgrade of communications and surveillance, especially in the Upper Dibang Valley region, according to multiple Army officials.

A capability development matrix was being employed and road development, construction of habitat and aviation facilities were under way, Major General M.S. Bains, General Officer Commanding of the Army's 2 Mountain Division, headquartered at Dinjan, told a group of journalists. "We are in the process of linking various valleys," he said.

Complete overhaul: A capability development matrix was being employed to cover the entire region. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

"We have gone for clear timelines for capability development based on a very clear perspective plan for future. Our overall combat readiness in the region is of a very high order," Maj. Gen. Bains added.

Five verticals

Another official, who did not wish to be identified, explained that the capability and infrastructure development in the region was being undertaken under five verticals – habitat, aviation, road infrastructure, operational logistics and security infrastructure.

Of this, the strategic roads and border roads were being constructed by Central government agencies and Border Roads Organisation, while the Army was building the last mile tracks to connect these roads to the forwards posts on the Line of Actual Control.

A third official noted that apart from construction of roads, aviation facilities were being created along them which was also benefiting the civil population.

India has two road axis in the forested area in Lohit and Siang; now, efforts were underway to improve infrastructure across the board.

Breather for coal plants draws anguish

For the third time, Centre extends deadline for fixing pollution control devices

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has for the third time extended the deadline by which coal plants must install pollution-control technologies to reduce emissions, drawing criticism from environment and clean-energy activists.

The Ministry first specified emission norms for the control of sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and mercury (Hg) from coal-fired power plants in December 2015, giving thermal power plant operators time until December 2017 to install equipment to contain emission of these pollutants. The deadline was then extended to 2022.

Power plants in the National Capital Region, which witnesses some of the worst pollution levels, were given a tighter deadline of 2020. However, non-compliance and limited progress by the plants in the region and elsewhere in the country led to a new extension in March 2021, followed by the notification on Monday pushing it to 2025.

The new deadline spans from December 2024 to 2026.

According to the latest notification, power plants within a 10-km radius of the NCR and in the vicinity of cities with a population of more than one million have until December 31, 2024, to meet the deadline. For power plants within a 10-km radius of "critically polluted" areas (as designated by the Environment Ministry), the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025. Finally, for all other power plants across the country, the deadline stands at December 31, 2026.

While multiple timeline extensions have been given for the installation of flue gas de-sulphurisation equipment, there are sustained efforts toward diluting or doing away with the norms by the power plants, say environmentalists.

"This is evident from the communications in the past and studies put out by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Union Ministry of Power (MoP), which ignore the basic science and chemistry of SO_2's role in building up PM2.5 concentrations through sulphate formation," said Sunil Dahiya, analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Ritwick Dutta, environmental lawyer and founder of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), said, "The fact that another extension has been given clearly shows that the emission norms will never be implemented. All power plants were required to achieve the target for emission standards by December 2017. All missed the target."

Nivit Yadav of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said, "Our analysis shows that till date, only 4% of India's coal power capacity has installed equipment to control SO_2 emissions and another 41% has identified the vendors for equipment. The remaining 55% of the capacity has not taken any concrete steps to meet the norms."

BRO to maintain paths to Amarnath temple

People are against concreting them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The J&K administration has handed over the twin routes to the Amarnath cave temple in the highly ecologically sensitive locations in south and central Kashmir to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for maintenance.

In the latest order by the Roads and Buildings Department on Tuesday, the government decided to transfer the tracks via Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni, which is rocky and unpaved, and via Baltal to the BRO "for development, maintenance and management".

"The Government has also approved transfer of Ranga to Baltal Road, including Nilgrath to Y-Junction to the Border Roads Organisation for development and maintenance," the order said.

The previous J&K regimes faced opposition in the past from local people and parties for laying any concrete path up to the temple located at an altitude of 3,657 metres. The surrounding basins of the temples are feeding glaciers for many streams, including the famous Lidder stream in Pahalgam. Both Pahalgam in south Kashmir and Sonamarg in central Kashmir are used as base camps and are covered by dense forests.

'Ukraine returnees can finish medical courses elsewhere'

Admission in Indian colleges would have worked better, say students

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
A.S. JAYANTH
NEW DELHI/KOZHIKODE

The decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to allow Indian medical students who have returned from war-torn Ukraine to relocate to universities in other countries and complete their studies has failed to lift the confusion and uncertainty that prevail among these students.

While the NMC Act requires students pursuing courses in foreign colleges to complete their education and obtain a degree from a single university, considering the special circumstances, the NMC has agreed to recognise the academic mobility programme offered by Ukraine to allow such students to complete their education elsewhere but receive the degree from the parent Ukrainian university.

The recent public notice issued by NMC said that the mobility programme offered by Ukraine has been considered in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, wherein it was intimated that the programme is a temporary relocation to other universities in different countries globally.

However, the students, who claim that their education has been adversely hit due to the war, online classes and inability to do internship, say the NMC's no-objection stand has come late.

Hurdles prevail: Students had staged a protest in Chennai demanding admission to local colleges. •S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

"Ideally we should have been allowed to join private colleges in India as a one-time consideration. While that did not happen students are now being dictated by the agents and student coordinators about which country to join and we are hard hit because of the fee restructuring. Besides this, finishing the syllabus in a hurried and haphazard manner, waiting endlessly for getting back original certificates from Ukraine and getting the verification of these documents are our main concerns now," said Vikas, whose brother is a fourth-year student in Ukraine and has now been given the option to shift to Georgia or Armenia to complete his education.

Similar fears were echoed by students and parents from across the country. Most complained about the financial strain and said that they had opted for a foreign medical college only because of the high fees in private colleges in India.

A Lok Sabha panel too had suggested that the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare admit these students in private medical colleges in the country as an one-time measure.

Meanwhile, medical students from Kerala too claim that they are not quite enthused by the NMC plan.

A. Karthik Madhav from Thiruvananthapuram, who is a sixth-year undergraduate student at Bukovinian State Medical University, said on Wednesday that the proposal lacked clarity. It is not quite clear which universities are part of this programme; for some that are located in countries like Poland and Romania, cost of living and lack of proficiency in local language are some of the problems, he pointed out.

The NMC has said that only students covered under Screening Test Regulations-2002 will make use of the option. That means junior students who are part of the regulations of 2021 will not benefit from it. Mr. Madhav said the order was likely to affect sixth year students who are supposed to get clinical experience and practical classes in a new place they are unfamiliar with.

Lancet series on metabolic health in the works

Journal editors on exposure trip in Chennai, to experience field-level work

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

A *Lancet* series on metabolic health in the southeast Asian region is in the works, Marta Koch, Editor-in-Chief, Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, said.

In Chennai, along with Shalini Garg, Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet Regional Health*, Southeast Asia, Dr. Koch hopes to learn about the actual inequities that impact health care delivery. She is embedded with Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC) and is visiting its outreach programmes to get a grounding on the realities of health care. "It's just a great opportunity for me to you know, come out of my editorial ivory tower, to come to India and to come to Chennai, specifically, to be able to have high-level discussions in person, but also to meet the people behind work, to see what is going on at the field level."

The Metabolic health series, which is in the planning stage, is a consequence of the experiences she and her colleague have had while on this exposure trip. "We have a domestic diabetes, endocrinology programme, in addition to the regional health Southeast Asia chapter. But we have been discussing with Dr. Mohan, founder-chariman, and Anjana Ranjit Mohan, managing director, DMDSC, about this interesting collaboration on metabolic health. It is still in the early stages, but we are excited about it."

Marta Koch •S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Dr. Koch spoke freely about the growing awareness of the need to incorporate patient voices even in scientific journals. While this beneficiary point of view has assumed much significance post the pandemic, it was way back in 2019 that Dr. Koch and colleagues announced in the journal that the "In Focus section has now been expanded to include Patient Perspectives and Patients' Voice – informal, conversational-style pieces authored by patients or patient advocates, respectively".

Given that research is done to improve the lives of patients, their lived experiences must be heard, she noted. "So, we are very keen to have a new format, where we can offer a platform for people who have the lived experiences, but also perhaps unable to express these voices by themselves – people in neglected settings in resource limited settings, challenging situations." She doesn't see a conflict that might arise in such a circumstance with the *Lancet*'s demand for rigour in scientific publications, as "this is a different format...and we feel it's all about education, about raising awareness on diabetes".

Even as concerns about getting reliable data from around the world are relevant, Dr. Koch and Dr. Garg talk about the prudence of being able to work with available data, but use scientific tools to make sure the data can contribute towards influencing government policy on health issues.

WHO to stress prevention of non-communicable diseases

Southeast Asia regional committee session in Bhutan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region on Wednesday resolved to accelerate progress for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including oral and eye afflictions.

"The region must build on the progress made in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Though the trends are in the right direction, we need to accelerate efforts to achieve global, regional, and national goals," Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said at the ongoing 75th regional committee session of the WHO Southeast Asia in Bhutan.

Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes, account for almost two-thirds of all deaths in the region.

Nearly half these deaths occur prematurely between the ages of 30 and 69 in 2021.

The meeting noted the continuing high burden of disease and death due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, a large number of untreated cases of dental caries and oral health conditions, and challenges in the provision of comprehensive eye care.

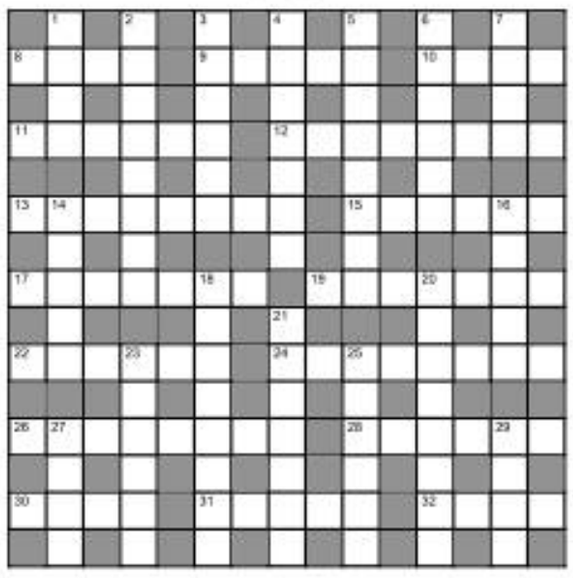
The member countries endorsed the road map for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, an action plan for oral health and another plan for an integrated people-centered eye care during the session.

TH CROSSWORD + 13655

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

8 Heads of Japanese university departments overrate martial art (4)
9 Reset traps to get fish (5)
10 Nursemaid from Malaya helped (4)
11 Brine sprinkled around large city (6)
12 Formally informed "Revised edition includes Foxtrot" (8)
13 A bachelor despatched Earl with sweetheart? He is not an attender! (8)
15 Husband, having love, get annual recurring deposit started initially for moneys accumulated for future use (6)
17 Setter returned my ape injured; resulting in pus pocket (7)
19 Agrees donkeys consumed book (7)
22 Line on map is followed by wild boar (6)
24 Sailor on ship carrying criminal duke runs away (8)
26 Forefather dances to reggae to some extent (8)
28 Pipe fitter disposes off piano, an unwanted piece taking up storage space (6)
30 Mineral found hospital chamber (4)
31 Fighter has height and power (5)
32 Wrongly sue ring leader and consumer (4)

Down

1 Speechless and tailless mongrel has energy (4)
2 Pass falsehood on railway in coal mine (8)
3 1980s version of online discussion forums? American teen is confused! (6)
4 Allowed dragnet to be cast (7)
5 Sutures its chest badly (8)
6 Royal Air Forces initially flies incredible African fibre (6)
7 Girl gets drink in strong wind (4)
14 Things mobs explode around 6th of November (5)
16 Old romantic encounter with daughter (5)
18 Nautical item thrown after French queen endlessly (8)
20 Very large mouse scampered around neck of rhino initially (8)
21 Anger after prohibition results in continuous bombardment (7)
23 British arrive at gap in fortification (6)
25 Greeting Tesla when walking around youth centre (6)
27 North eastern Arkansas is within reach (4)
29 Adam's mate gets new flat (4)

SUDOKU

3					7			6
	8				4	7		
7		6				1		8
		9			2		7	3
5	4		7			9		
4		8				3		9
		5	3				8	
6			1					4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13654

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	2	9	5	4	7	8	3
5	9	4	8	3	7	2	6	1
7	3	8	1	2	6	5	4	9
8	7	1	3	4	5	9	2	6
9	2	3	6	7	1	4	5	8
4	5	6	2	9	8	3	1	7
6	4	7	5	1	9	8	3	2
2	1	9	4	8	3	6	7	5
3	8	5	7	6	2	1	9	4

FAITH

Sakuni's advice

Although Sakuni is seen as the cause for the troubles of the Pandavas, initially he advises Duryodhana to give up his envy of the Pandavas, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. But Duryodhana is unwilling to take his uncle's advice. Sakuni tells Duryodhana about the might of the Pandavas. He says Arjuna worshipped Agni and received many weapons from the latter. Duryodhana has been lamenting that he has no one on his side. Sakuni points out to him how wrong he is. He asks Duryodhana to think of his strengths, instead of thinking negatively all the time. He says Drona and his son Asvattama will pay heed to Duryodhana, he being the ruling king's heir. Karna is a great archer, capable of inflicting severe blows on the Pandavas. Bhishma, the greatest among men, is with the Kauravas. Kripacharya, Jayadratha and many more are in Duryodhana's camp. Why should he worry?

Encouraged by these words, Duryodhana says that if all these people are with him, then he can conquer the Pandavas. Sakuni then tells him that defeating the Pandavas on the battlefield is an impossibility. But there are other ways of destroying them. Duryodhana says that if he can destroy the Pandavas, without incurring losses, he would welcome such a plan. Sakuni then tells Duryodhana that he will get Yudhishthira to play a game of dice. Yudhishthira likes the game, but is not good at it. But Sakuni is a master of the game. So he knows he can easily defeat Yudhishthira. Sakuni says he will deprive Yudhishthira of his kingdom and all his wealth. Sakuni only talks of grabbing all of the Pandavas' riches, but he does not mention Draupadi as a possible stake in the game. He tells Duryodhana that Dhritarashtra must invite the Pandavas to Hastinapura and command Yudhishthira to play the game.

Xi, Putin set to hold talks in Uzbekistan

Narendra Modi will also attend the SCO summit; he will hold talks with the Russian leader

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold talks next week on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend.

Russia's Ambassador in Beijing Andrey Denisov said on Wednesday, "In less than 10 days, we will have a regular meeting of our SCO leaders in Samarkand, we are getting ready for it. In general, this summit promises to be interesting, because it will be the first full-fledged summit since the pandemic."

"One way or another, there will be plenary sessions and various kinds of group meetings, and we are planning a serious, full-fledged meeting of our leaders with a detailed agenda, which we are now, in fact, working on with our Chinese partners," he was quoted as saying by Russia's *TASS* news agency. This will be their first meeting since talks in Beijing in February, which took place shortly before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Both leaders then affirmed a "no limits" relationship.

A file picture of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. • AP

Xi's first visit

Mr. Xi's travels to Kazakhstan on September 14, and attendance at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on September 15 and 16, will be his first outside of China in close to three years.

The Chinese leader hasn't left the country since a mid-January 2020 visit to Myanmar, days before the lockdown of Wuhan where the pandemic began.

China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday didn't confirm Mr. Xi's travel plans. On Monday, Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aibek Smadiyarov said Mr. Xi will meet with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on September 14 and sign a number of agreements.

Modi to meet Putin

Prime Minister Modi will also be present at the SCO summit and is expected to also hold talks with Mr. Putin on the sidelines. Indian and Chinese officials haven't confirmed whether the two leaders, who haven't spoken since a November 2019 meeting along the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Brasilia, will hold talks, amid the continuing Line of Actual Control (LAC) stand-off, which began in April 2020.

India has conveyed to China it cannot accept normalcy in ties as long as the situation along the LAC remains disturbed and has called for a return to the status quo and restoration of peace on the boundary.

Liz Truss appoints a diverse U.K. Cabinet in shake-up

British PM packs the top tier of Cabinet with close allies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Prime Minister Liz Truss held her first Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in London on Wednesday after announcing one of the U.K.'s most diverse Cabinets, with key frontline posts going to ethnic minority members of Parliament, including Indian-origin Suella Braverman as the Home Secretary.

Another Indian-origin minister in the Cabinet, Agra-born Alok Sharma, retains his climate action job as the COP26 President, as does Defence Secretary Ben Wallace in a new top team that is otherwise a complete shake-up of the old guard.

London-born junior minister Ranil Jayawardena, of mixed Sri Lankan and Indian heritage, has been promoted as the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Liz Truss

Many senior Tories, who had backed Ms. Truss' rival, British Indian former finance minister Rishi Sunak, find themselves without a job - including former justice secretary Dominic Raab, transport secretary Grant Shapps and health secretary Steve Barclay.

The process of appointing the Cabinet and junior ministerial roles began on Tuesday and will continue into Wednesday, when Ms. Truss addresses her first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons.

Ms. Truss has packed the top tier of her Cabinet with close allies, such as Therese Coffey as the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Wendy Morton as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and the first Tory female Chief Whip in charge of party discipline.

Unacceptable censorship by govt.: Imran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan accused the government on Wednesday of "unacceptable" censorship after authorities apparently blocked national access to YouTube to prevent a rally speech from being broadcast live.

"They are imposing complete blackout of my speeches not only from mainstream media but also by blocking YouTube," he tweeted.

"This fascist govt. of cabal of crooks & their backers are willing to harm the interests of Pakistan simply out of fear of [his party] PTI's soaring popularity. Utterly callous & unacceptable."

Ukraine backs UN peace force at nuclear plant

No military equipment at plant: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukraine's nuclear operator said on Wednesday it would support the deployment of UN peacekeepers at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia plant, a day after the UN atomic watchdog called for a security zone around the site.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a report on Tuesday saying the situation at the nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, was "untenable". The agency sent a team to the site last week.

It called for a demilitarised security zone to be established at the plant in southern Ukraine, which the Russians took over in March. There has been repeated shelling around the site, sparking fears of a nuclear disaster.

Ukraine's nuclear operator Energoatom said on Wednesday it would support the deployment of UN peacekeepers to the facility and called for Russian troops to leave.

The head of Ukraine's nuclear security agency warned Wednesday that a nuclear accident at the site could affect neighbouring countries.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that there was "no military equipment" at the plant in southern Ukraine, adding that he "certainly trusts" the IAEA report.

EU to propose price cap on Russian gas: Von der Leyen

European Commission President was speaking to reporters

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Commission will propose a price cap on Russian gas, alongside measures including a mandatory EU cut in electricity use and a cap on the revenue of non-gas power generators, the bloc's chief said on Wednesday.

"We will propose a price cap on Russian gas... We must cut Russia's revenues which Mr. Putin uses to finance this atrocious war in Ukraine," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters.

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russia will stop supplying gas and oil if price caps are imposed.

Some EU countries – which would need to approve the EU proposals – are wary of capping Russian gas prices in case that costs them the dwindling supply they still receive from Moscow.

Von der Leyen outlined the EU's upcoming emergency proposals to lower soaring gas and power prices, which have hiked bills for households and hammered Europe's energy-intensive industries.

The EU wants to cap the revenue of non-gas fuelled generators and rechannel their "unexpected profits" into measures that support households and companies, von der Leyen said.

European power prices are typically set by gas plants, and the cap would aim to reduce the cost of electricity generated by wind farms, nuclear plants and coal generators that have lower running costs as they are not exposed to surging gas prices.

Other measures Brussels will put forward include a requirement for countries to cut electricity use during peak hours. EU countries' energy ministers will discuss the proposals at an emergency meeting on Friday.

Russia to halt supply if price caps imposed: Putin

'World to face even higher energy costs'

REUTERS
VLADIVOSTOK

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday threatened to cut off energy supplies if price caps are imposed on Russia's oil and gas exports, warning the West it would be "frozen" like a wolf's tail in a famous Russian fairy tale.

Cutting supplies from Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and the world's top natural gas exporter, would roil global energy markets, leaving the world economy facing even higher energy prices.

Speaking at an economic forum in Russia's Pacific city of Vladivostok, Mr. Putin said European calls for a price cap on Russian gas were "stupid", and would lead to higher global prices and economic problems in Europe.

The Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies announced plans to impose a price cap on Russian oil exports last week in a move that could also restrict Russia's ability to secure tankers and insurance from countries beyond the G7. Russia would walk away from its supply contracts if the West went ahead with its plans, Mr. Putin said. Europe usually imports about 40% of its gas and 30% of its oil from Russia. Since the conflict with Ukraine began, EU has pledged to reduce their reliance on Russian energy.

Five convicted of sedition in Hong Kong over children's book

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Five Hong Kong speech therapists were found guilty on Wednesday of a conspiracy to publish seditious children's books that were deemed anti-government, a decision denounced by rights campaigners as a blow to free speech in the China-ruled city.

The five were accused of publishing three picture books, featuring cartoons of sheep and wolves, which government prosecutors alleged had spread separatism and stirred up hatred and opposition to the government.

Lorie Lai, Melody Yeung, Sidney Ng, Samuel Chan and Marco Fong, aged between 25 and 28, had pleaded not guilty and chose not to testify nor summon any witnesses. They will be sentenced on Saturday.

The picture books referenced actual events, including the city's mass pro-democracy 2019 protests, as well as 12 pro-democracy protesters who fled Hong Kong by speedboat in 2020 and were captured by the Chinese Coastguard.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian man in West Bank firefight

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian man during a firefight on Wednesday in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The violence erupted after Israel carried out an arrest raid in a refugee camp near the city of Tubas.

The Israeli military said it carried out arrest raids across the West Bank as part of a months-long crackdown on Palestinian militants. It said its soldiers came under fire during the arrest of a wanted person in the Faraa refugee camp in the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said 21-year-old Younis Ghassan Tayeh died from a bullet wound to the chest. It wasn't immediately clear whether he was participating in the clashes with the Israeli forces.

Israel has been conducting near-daily arrest raids in the West Bank for months, which were prompted by a spate of deadly attacks against Israelis earlier this year that killed 19 people.

Dozens of Palestinians have been killed during that time.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR.
e-mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

e-Procurement Notice No. 15 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

Odisha Construction Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar invites short tender call notices for the following works:

Name of Works	Amount put to Tender (Approx.) (Rs. in lakhs)	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Bid Security	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
1.Construction of Revetment/Rip-rap stone packing near Kusabhadra mouth left site to restoring the Eco-retreat Konark for the year 2022-23	Rs.517.43 lakhs	OCCL-HQP/ 02/2022-23	03 (three) Calendar months	Bid Security Declaration as per W.D O.M. 8484, dated. 05.04.2022 is to be furnished	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.
2.Dredging of sediment from the Kasavadra river mouth and filling the same at the location of Eco-Retreat Konark for the year 2022-23	Rs.175.60 lakhs	OCCL-HQP/ 03/2022-23	03 (three) Calendar months		09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 16.09.2022, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Managing Director

CAD-1731 OPR-3412/11/0021/2223

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
RFP No. 42155 Date. 02.09.2022
File No. 62 XC-FV MANPOWER RFP/2022/22
Bid Identification No._____
Email Id : bmcpmu@bmc.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Deputy Commissioner (Health), BMC invites bids for undertaking the work of providing Manpower Services at various Urban Health & Wellness Centre's (UHWCs) under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in Bhubaneswar City through e-procurement in conformity with the terms and conditions of this Advertisement and Request for Proposal (RFP) in Two Bid System (Part-I) : General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid/ Price Bid (BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in the RFP. Agreement is to be drawn up by BMC with the successful / selected bidder in the prescribed contract as provided by BMC. Each bid should be submitted online through the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this RFP, intending bidders may contact ADUPHO, Urban Health, NUHM / Deputy Commissioner (Health), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar.

Sl No	Name of the Work	EMD	Tender Document Cost including GST	Contract Period
1.	Selection of an Agency for providing Manpower Services at various Urban Health & Wellness Centres (UHWCs) in Bhubaneswar City under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)	Bid Security Declaration Form	Rs.11,800/-	2 Years

Time Schedule for Bidding:

S.No.	Activity	Date & Time (IST)
1	Period of availability of RFP online for bidding	From Dt. 06/09/2022 From 10:00 AM to Dt.26/09/2022 Up to 5:30 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	Dt. 13/09/2022 at 12.00 Noon
3	Last date & time of bidding online	Dt. 26/09/2022 Up to 5:30 PM
4	Date & Time of opening of the Technical Bids received online	Dt. 27/09/2022 (12.00 Noon)
5	Date & Time of opening of Price Bid / Financial Bid	To be intimated later on to the qualified Bidder after evaluation of technical bids

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document/ RFP available in website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC website i.e. www.bmc.gov.in (for view and download only).
3. Subsequent corrigendum, if required, shall appear in these websites
4. BMC reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC
Deputy Commissioner (Health), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

C-1149 OPR-13002/11/0090/2223

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MARKET WATCH

	07-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,029	-0.28
US Dollar	79.95	-0.16
Gold	50,781	-0.65
Brent oil	88.55	-5.62

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	874.90	24.55
Apollo Hosp	4376.50	-39.00
Asian Paints	3400.35	5.10
Axis Bank	755.40	5.40
Bajaj Auto	3845.65	-83.75
Bajaj Finserv	17055.60	86.65
Bajaj Finance	7166.50	47.15
Bharti Airtel	753.10	-8.15
BPCL	326.85	2.60
Britannia Ind	3667.90	59.10
Cipla	1051.50	10.65
Coal India	238.85	6.15
Divis Lab	3590.95	5.45
Dr Reddys Lab	4249.30	10.10
Eicher Motors	3383.65	-26.70
Grasim Ind	1750.15	27.10
HCL Tech	931.70	-6.10
HDFC	2427.80	-20.70
HDFC Bank	1482.30	-7.05
HDFC Life	576.95	3.45
Hero MotoCorp	2854.75	-11.80
Hindalco	432.85	1.90
Hind Unilever	2564.60	-8.50
ICICI Bank	876.20	-7.45
Indusind Bank	1089.95	-18.85
Infosys	1457.65	2.55
ITC	326.10	-1.05
JSW Steel	684.60	0.05
Kotak Bank	1908.25	-7.45
L&T	1958.10	-4.20
M&M	1289.70	-16.70
Maruti Suzuki	8784.90	-103.85
Nestle India Ltd.	19179.30	137.40
NTPC	167.30	-1.15
ONGC	132.50	0.40
PowerGrid Corp	224.40	-0.65
Reliance Ind	2581.75	-15.10
SBI Life	1331.55	20.20
State Bank	532.85	-4.95
Shree Cement	23181.05	1526.70
Sun Pharma	893.75	6.00
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	825.10	6.85
Tata Motors	445.85	-11.90
Tata Steel	107.60	-1.00
TCS	3149.60	22.55
Tech Mahindra	1055.85	-7.85
Titan	2637.75	6.10
UltraTech Cement	6770.80	275.30
UPL	741.10	3.00
Wipro	407.45	3.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.70	80.02
Euro	78.93	79.25
British Pound	91.39	91.77
Japanese Yen (100)	55.14	55.36
Chinese Yuan	11.43	11.47
Swiss Franc	80.93	81.26
Singapore Dollar	56.59	56.82
Canadian Dollar	60.53	60.80
Malaysian Ringgit	17.69	17.78
Australian Dollar	53.59	53.81

Source: Indian Bank

Temenos, Bahwan sign pact to expand reach

CHENNAI

Banking platform Temenos and Bahwan CyberTek (BCT) signed a deal to scale up former's operations in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

Inflation is not a 'red lettered' priority for govt. now, says FM

Job creation, equitable distribution of wealth, growth key priorities: Sitharaman

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Inflation was not a 'red-lettered' priority now for the government as it had been brought down to a 'manageable level' over the past two months, and job creation and equitable distribution of wealth were instead the key current priorities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

"I am not sure I can have the luxury of sequencing priorities, several things will have to happen simultaneously," Ms. Sitharaman said, speaking at the U.S. India Business Council's annual general meeting titled 'India Ideas Summit'. "Of course, some are red-lettered and some others may not be," she replied, when queried by Nasdaq executive vice chairman Ed Knight on the top policy priorities for India and how their implementation may be sequenced.

Focus on jobs: The red-lettered priorities would be jobs and making sure India stays on the growth path, says FM. •AFP

"The red-lettered ones will definitely be jobs, equitable wealth distribution and making sure that India is still moving on the path of growth. In that sense, inflation is not red-lettered, I hope that we have shown in the last couple of months we were able to bring it to some manageable level," she said.

Retail inflation in India moderated to 6.71% in July, from an eight-year high of 7.79% in April. Ms. Sitharaman exuded confidence that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was 'fairly clued in' to developments arising from the steps taken by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, would be able to handle the monetary policy challenges 'without major blips'.

The economy's revival, she said, had largely been helped by the government as it followed the right kind of policies, executed quick reforms and ensured there was 'hand holding' for targeted sectors, instead of 'splurging or printing money'.

India eyes IMF support ahead of G20 chair

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will soon release the list of focus areas to be pursued during its tenure as the G20's chair, which it is set to assume in December this year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, hours before she met the International Monetary Fund (IMF) top boss Kristalina Georgieva to discuss IMF's support through its G20 presidency.

"We will be taking over the G20 chair at a very challenging time," Ms. Sitharaman said, noting India's presidency period would coincide with a time when the world was concerned about debt and climate challenges. "Some of the ongoing issues will continue on the agenda, some which India will like to take up on its own," she added.

CBDC to reduce time, cost in cross-border business: RBI's Sankar

'Digital rupee will cut settlement risk'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Central bank digital currency (CBDC), to be introduced this year, could become a tool for reducing time and cost for cross-border transactions, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar said on Wednesday.

The RBI has proposed to roll-out the CBDC, or a digital equivalent to the rupee, on a pilot basis this fiscal year, as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget.

"We have to understand that internationalisation of CBDC is crucial to addressing the payments issue that bodies like G-20 and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) are dealing with now," he said at the India Ideas Summit.

Observing that India had an 'excellent, cheap and fast' domestic payments system, he said the cost of cross-border payments, however, was still high.

There was a lot of scope for improvement in terms of both cost and speed, he noted.

CBDC was probably the most efficient answer to this, he said, adding, for example, if India's CBDC and the U.S. CBDC systems could talk to each other, one wouldn't have to wait for settling transactions.

"That massively takes out the settlement risk from cross border transactions that reduces time, that reduces cost. So, CBDC internationalisation is something that I'm looking forward to," he said.

Concerning fraud management, Mr. Sankar said digital payment needs to be scaled up while preserving system integrity, which essentially means technical stability.

"It just doesn't mean that the technical failures of transactions have to be minimised, it also means that transactions themselves have to inspire confidence; we cannot have too many instances of frauds," the RBI Deputy Governor added.

'Fraud management'

"Fraud management is an area that we also need to focus on if we have to scale it up [digital payment]," he noted. Citing the example of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for non-feature phones, Mr. Sankar said the RBI pays special attention to the fact that digital payment technology should be inclusive.

"The third is of course innovation. I've talked about it in terms of what the RBI India Innovation Hub has been doing. But this innovative impulse is something that we would want the industry to rise up to," he said.

On data security, he said the RBI had to keep working on it on a continuous basis.

"We need to understand [that] there's never a moment when we feel we are secure enough because that is the moment you get vulnerable," he added.

Maruti eyes mid-SUVs to lift market share to 50%

Firm to unveil car this month: official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Maruti Suzuki will consider the SUV segment as a key area to lift its overall market share in the country, a senior company official said.

Presently, the company's overall market share is under 45% and the target is to lift it to 50%.

Shashank Srivastava

Senior Executive Director of Maruti Suzuki Shashank Srivastava told reporters here that in the non-SUV segment, the company has a market share of more than 65% while in the SUV segment is not big.

"SUV is the largest and fastest-growing segment and Maruti must have a good market share in this," he said.

"In the entry-level SUV segment, Maruti's share is 20% of the 6.6 lakh cars which is being sold annually. But Maruti does not have a car in the mid-SUV segment whose size is 5.5 lakh."

"There is a need to enter the mid-SUV segment for which it will launch a model in the last week of September this year."

In $70 bn green push, Adani to build giga units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Asia's richest man Gautam Adani on Wednesday said his ports-to-power conglomerate will build three giga factories for manufacturing solar modules, wind turbines, and hydrogen electrolysers as part of a $70-billion investment in clean energy by 2030.

The group aims to become the world's top renewable-energy producer by 2030.

"The Adani Group has already committed $70 billion (for climate change and green energy). This will see us building three giga factories in India, leading to one of the most integrated green energy value chains," he said.

Fintech space may see a slowdown: KPMG study

'Focus shifts to cash flow, profitability'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Asia-Pacific region, which includes India, could see a considerable slowing down in fintech activities, compared with the record-high growth seen in 2021, following rising inflation, interest rates and continuing geopolitical uncertainty, KPMG said on Wednesday.

The region received fintech investments worth $41.8 billion in 607 deals in the first six months of 2022.

However, verticals such as retail payments and B2C solutions saw a cooling off during the period. And areas that had seen significant investment interest at

the height of the pandemic had lost some attractiveness, KPMG said in its 'Pulse of Fintech H1 2022'.

"The fintech space has witnessed a correction in valuation and investment flow," Sanjay Doshi, Partner and Head, Financial Services Advisory, KPMG in India, said. "Focus on building scale has now been supplemented by focus on cash flow and profitability."

SPORT

Yuki-Myneni duo enters quarterfinals

SPORTS BUREAU

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat Jason Taylor and Brandon Walkin 7-6 (4), 6-2 to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Cassis, France.

In the Challenger in Nonthaburi, Thailand, Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost 7-6(2), 6-1 to Arthur Cazaux of France, in the pre-quarterfinals.

Other results:

$37,520 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Anirudh Chandrasekar & Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Sidharth Rawat 5-7, 6-3, [10-5].

$25,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: First round: Sasikumar Mukund bt Miguel Gomes (Por) 6-1, 6-1.

$25,000 ITF, Cairo: Men: First round: Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Karim Ibrahim (Egy) 6-3, 6-3.

Women: First round: Ayla Aksu (Tur) bt Sravya Shivani 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Vittoria Modesti (Ita) & Doga Turkmen (Tur) bt Hala Fouad (Egy) & Sravya Shivani 6-4, 7-5.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: First round: Bharath Kumaran bt Mohamed Ali Abibsii (Alg) 7-5, 6-2; Karan Singh bt Nikolay Nedelchev (Bul) 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Yash Chaurasia bt Youssef Labbene (Tun) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishab Agarwal & Karunuday Singh bt Yash Chaurasia & Tushar Sharma 6-3, 7-5.

Women: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Dong Na (Chn) & Jennifer Luikham bt Emilia Durska (Pol) & Annika Kannan 6-2, 6-1; Nagomi Higashitani (Jpn) & Teja Tirunelveli (USA) bt Angelina Graovac (Aus) & Smriti Bhasin 6-0, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF women, Cancun: First round: Ava Markham (USA) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-0, 6-4.

Bowlers look for more assistance in second 'Test'

It will be interesting to see if Umran gets an opportunity to go full tilt at the New Zealand-A batters

NZ-A IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
HUBBALLI

Lakes and hills dot this city in northern Karnataka. Nrupatunga Hill, in fact, provides a fetching background to the KSCA Stadium which is basking under the sun on this Wednesday afternoon.

Because of the overnight rain, the outfield is a bit wet, but should there be no further showers, the second 'Test' between India-A and New Zealand-A could well have a prompt start on Thursday.

Though the opening day's action in the first 'Test' at Bengaluru had to be cut short because of rain, the weather didn't play spoilsport for the rest of the match. That too, despite the metropolis recording rains heavy enough to flood several areas.

Fire brand: Umran will be keen to replicate his fiery T20 form, should he get to play. •FILE PHOTO: SPORTZPICS/BCCI

The players of both teams must be hoping they haven't brought the rains along with them from Bengaluru, about an hour's flight.

The bowlers among them must be hoping the batters haven't brought the runs along from the friendly wicket at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Three of the India-A batters – opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, Rajat Patidar and Tilak Varma — had cracked hundreds there. But the match's highest score came from a visiting batter – Joe Carter, who hit a well-crafted 197.

It would be interesting if the wicket here offers a bit more assistance to the bowlers.

In the previous First Class match played here, there were six-wicket hauls for Karnataka seamer Abhimanyu Mithun and Uttar Pradesh's left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar (who is part of the squad but didn't play in the first 'Test'), in 2019.

Encouragement

That bit of statistics should encourage the bowlers of both India-A and New Zealand-A, who had to toil hard at Bengaluru.

Talking of bowling, it would be interesting to see if Umran Malik, that rare genuine Indian fast bowler, gets a game.

It would certainly be worth watching how he performs in a long-format match after some fiery spells in T20 cricket.

Chinese Taipei shocks China

Korea hands India its second straight defeat

BASKETBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
BENGALURU

Chinese Taipei produced one of the biggest upsets of the FIBA Asian women's u-18 basketball championship (Division A) with an impressive 74-61 victory over World No. 4 and 16-time champion China in a Group-A contest at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday.

The last time it defeated China was in the Asian u-18 championship at home in 2002.

The other three matches went according to the script with higher-ranked teams posting wins.

Japan thrashed Indonesia 107-35, Australia beat New Zealand 111-44 and Korea got the better of India 69-47.

There was no indication of Taipei's level of play in the first quarter (10-25).

> **It is a historic moment. I told the players to use the wide spaces**
>
> MEI-LI CHEN
> Taipei head coach

Though it put up a relatively better show in the second (31-36), it was only in the third quarter that Taipei took the game away from the Asian powerhouse.

Turnaround

Showing excellent defensive capabilities and consistent shooting, Taipei scored 25 points in the third while China could manage just eight in the same period (56-44). "It is a historic moment. I told the players to use the wide spaces," said Mei-Li Chen, the head coach of Taipei.

India would be satisfied with the way it played, especially in the last two quarters where it showed the spunk and aggression that was missing in the match against Australia.

The results:

Division-A: Group-A: Australia 111 (Sophie Borrows 14, Dallas Loughridge 12, Nyadiew Puoch 11, Isobel Borlase 16, Isla Juffemans 12) bt New Zealand 44 (Florence Dallow 10).

Korea 69 (Sol Kim 15, Seoyeon Ko 14, Seongjin Park 10) bt India 47 (Yashneet Kaur 13).

Group-B: Japan 107 (Chinami Yokoyama 12, Saki Furuya 12, Msaki Sasaka 17, Mnami Takaki 11, Honoka Mbrioka 13, Mnami Yabu 11) bt Indonesia 35.

Chinese Taipei 74 (Yu Lan Chang 18, Yu Wein Hsiao 15, Chin Hua Yu 13) bt China 61 (Duoling Hu 10, Wenxia Li 21, Qinyang Li 15).

Catch me if you can! Yu Lan led the scoring chart for Chinese Taipei. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

Rhythmic flow: Maana left the competition in her wake with a sublime performance. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

Richa staves off Shrungi's challenge

Maana claims 200m backstroke

NATL. AQUATICS

Y.B. SARANGI
GUWAHATI

Seasoned swimmer Richa Mishra pushed herself to the women's 400m medley title in the National aquatic championships on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old Richa, who bagged the 200m medley bronze on day one, clocked 5:12.48 to beat Khelo India University Games gold medallist Shrungi Bandekar by 0.07 second and claim her second medal.

After leading the race, Richa was challenged by Shrungi in the closing stages. But the policewoman displayed her grit to take the yellow metal. "I was not expecting to win a medal this time. It feels good. I am a fitness freak and swimming helps me," said Richa.

"I took part in the National Games in 1997 with a hope to get a washing machine (as the winner was awarded by the sponsor Videocon) for my mother. Now I am going to participate in my sixth National Games," she added.

Olympian Maana Patel won the 200m backstroke with a time of 2:20.09.

In diving, Hrutika Shriram did a double of women's platform and 3m springboard titles. Siddharth Pardesi took the gold in the men's platform event.

The results: Men: 50m freestyle: 1. Pavan Gupta (RSPB) 23.43, 2. Rudrash Manoj Mishra (SSCB) 23.52, 3. Nimish Muley (SSCB) 23.85; **1500 freestyle:** 1. Aneesh Gowda (Kar) 16:08.84, 2. Sushrut Kapse (RSPB) 16:34.66, 3. Arurag Singh (UP) 16:40.31; **200m backstroke:** 1. Utkarsh Patil (Kar) 2:04.61, 2. Siva S. (Kar) 2:04.75, Tanmay Das (RSPB) 2:08.44; **4x100m relay:** 1. SSCB 3:29.88, 2. Tamil Nadu 3:30.99, 3. Karnataka 3:31.56.

Women: 200m backstroke: 1. Maana Patel (Guj) 2:20.09, 2. Palak Joshi (Mah) 2:25.16, 3. Pratishtha Dangi (Mah) 2:27.10; **400m medley:** 1. Richa Mishra (AIP) 5:12.48, 2. Shrungi Bandekar (Goa) 5:12.55, 3. Disha Bhandari (UP) 5:14.51; **4x100m freestyle:** 1. Karnataka 4:03.73, 2. Maharashtra 4:07.76, 3. TN 4:16.06.

Diving:

Men: Platform: 1. Siddharth Pardesi (SSCB) 339.20, 2. Sourav Debnath (SSCB) 301.65, 3. Prakhar Joshi (MP) 217.60.

Women: Platform: 1. Hrutika Shriram (RSPB) 176.65, 2. Esha Waghmode (Mah) 163.75, 3. Palak Sharma (MP) 146.75.

3m springboard: 1. Hrutika 170.35, 2. Palak 154.45, 3. Medhali Redkar (Mah) 136.35.

Left-hander strategy didn't prove right

Benching Karthik to accommodate Pant flopped; India to play for pride against Afghanistan

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Having exited the tournament, India has nothing more than pride to play for in its last Asia Cup Super 4 outing against Afghanistan here on Thursday.

India, with two losses in two Super 4 clashes, will use the match to solve a few team combination puzzles that have stumped the team. The most pertinent among them is the curious case of Dinesh Karthik.

During the death overs of India's Asia Cup Super 4 match against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, substitute Karthik came onto the field with a pair of gloves and a word of advice for the batters. If ever one needed tips on how to finish with a flourish, Karthik is the man for the job.

Why then was Karthik carrying drinks and not batting in the middle?

The Indian team management believes that the batting line-up needs a left-hander to fill the spot left vacant by injured all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Enter southpaw wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant – the match-up answer to tackling leg-spinners and left-arm orthodox spinners.

While this reads well in theory, it did not produce the desired results. Walking out in the 15th over, Pant only managed a scratchy 13-ball 17. His partner, Hardik Pandya, was not at his best either, resulting in India losing the tempo.

There would be no acceleration provided by Deepak Hooda, who came in at No. 7. Hooda normally bats in the top-order, and was therefore bound to find it tough to succeed in the unfamiliar role of finisher. Hooda only lasted four balls, before being cleaned up by pacer Dilshan Madushanka in the 19th over.

Hooda, a handy off-spinner, has not been used as an all-rounder. The 27-year-old has not been called to bowl in the two matches he has played. India sorely missed a finisher of the calibre of Karthik. The Tamil Nadu cricketer has not been given a fair go, having faced just one ball in this tournament.

According to captain Rohit Sharma, Karthik's only drawback is that he is a right-hander. "We wanted a left-hander to bat in the middle. That's why Dinesh Karthik was out. Not because of form or anything. We wanted a left-hand batter in the middle to take the pressure off, but it didn't happen. But by no means has Karthik been dropped because of poor form," Rohit said after the defeat against Sri Lanka.

If Pant has to feature in the XI, he should perhaps be used as an opener. He can replace K.L. Rahul who is struggling for runs. After showing some signs of regaining his touch with a 20-ball 28 against Pakistan, Rahul was back to jabs and pokes in the Sri Lanka encounter.

The silver lining for the Indians was Rohit's fine 72. The skipper looked fluent, picking the lengths early and attacking with venom. His individual brilliance, however, was not enough to mask bigger team failings.

Not getting his due: In the garb of tactical finesse, Karthik probably got a raw deal. •FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

TODAY'S MATCH
SUPER 4
India vs. Afghanistan
Dubai, 7:30 p.m. IST

Naseem's strikes stun Afghanistan

Pakistan books a final with Sri Lanka; India knocked out

AYAN ACHARYA
SHARJAH

Pakistan aced a last-over thriller to beat Afghanistan by one wicket and qualify for the final of the Asia Cup. Wednesday's result knocked India and Afghanistan out of contention. Sri Lanka will face Pakistan in the summit clash on Sunday.

Chasing 130, Pakistan lost captain Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman early.

When Rashid Khan came on in the seventh over, Pakistan was 35 for two. Rashid unfurled his array of leg spinners and googlies in a brief but edge-of-the-seat face off with Mohammad Rizwan; the latter survived a huge lbw appeal off Rashid in the seventh over only to be given out leg-before in the bowler's next over.

Shadab Khan (36, 26b, 1x4, 3x6), promoted in the order, turbocharged the chase with his power-hitting. Shadab's 42-run stand with Iftikhar Ahmed provided stability before Fazalhaq Farooqi turned the match on its head with two wickets in the 18th over. Needing 11 in the final over, Naseem Shah struck two back-to-back sixes off Farooqi to seal it.

Earlier in the evening, Rahmanullah Gurbaz pulled Mohammad Hasnain for successive sixes. But Gurbaz was soon walking back, bowled by Haris Rauf. Afghanistan was 48 for two in six overs. With two right-handers Karim Janat and Ibrahim Zadran at the crease, leggie Shadab and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz, dried up the boundaries.

The pressure told as Janat holed out to Fakhar Zaman off Nawaz. Left-hander Najibullah Zadran then smacked Shadab for a six, the first maximum off his bowling in this edition. But he nailed Najibullah soon. Rashid struck some lusty blows, but in the end, Afghanistan was beaten to the finish line by the barest of margins.

The scores: Afghanistan 129/6 in 20 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 35) lost to Pakistan 131/9 in 19.2 overs (Iftikhar Ahmed 30, Shadab Khan 36, Fazalhaq Farooqi 3/31, Fareed Ahmad 3/31); **Toss:** Pakistan; **MoM:** Shadab.

Maximum impact: With 11 needed off six deliveries, Naseem sealed it with sixes off the first two balls. •AFP

Super 4 points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	4	0.351
Pakistan	2	2	0	4	0.241
India	2	0	2	0	-0.125
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	-0.452

North locks horns with East

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DINAKAR
PUDUCHERRY

It rained rather heavily here on Wednesday evening. And more rain has been forecast on all the four days of this encounter in the revived Duleep Trophy. Both North and East Zones will be watching the weather with keen interest ahead of their quarterfinal beginning here on Thursday; it will influence their strategy and the selection of the eleven.

Rain or shine, Duleep Trophy will be returning in its original inter-zonal format. Then matches will have a context and a purpose.

Duleep Trophy, once the pride of the Indian domestic calendar, was thoughtlessly made into a caricature with teams being called Red, Blue, Green and so on, and randomly picked from different parts of the country which resulted in sides having minimum cohesion. And they were made to play day/night matches with pink balls.

A long-duration match which should ideally have been a test of character and resilience was made into a tamasha.

The present version, although welcome, will be no patch on the Duleep Trophy matches of the 70s and 80s when these games almost had the aura of a Test match.

North Zone, led by the irrepressible Bishan Bedi, and possessing the Amarnath brothers, Rajinder Goel and Kapil Dev will be up against Sunil Gavaskar-led West Zone with men such as Dilip Vengsarkar, Sandeep Patil, Padmakar Shivalkar and Pandurang Salgoankar.

The matches would be bitterly fought and sparks would fly.

And the star-studded South Zone will feature Gundappa Viswanath, Tiger Pataudi, Erapalli Prasanna, B.S. Chandrasekhar, S. Venkatraghavan, Syed Kirmani, Brijesh Patel, Roger Binny and K. Srikkanth. What line-ups they used to be!

But with a cramped international calendar, it is impossible to lift the Duleep Trophy to those glory days again.

Nevertheless it will be a good opportunity for youngsters such as North's batter Yash Dhull and teammate and pacer Navdeep Saini to showcase their talent or reestablish their claims, as the case may be.

Despite his successful foray into politics, it is good to see Manoj Tiwary, leading East, retaining his passion for the game. Shahbaz Nadeem is a capable left-arm spinner. And Shahbaz Ahmed is an all-rounder with promise.

The teams (from):

North Zone: Mandeep Singh (Capt.), Mayank Dagar, Yash Dhull, Jagjit Singh, Siddharth Kaul, Anmol Malhotra, Pulkit Narang, Qamran Iqbal, Himanshu Rana, Navdeep Saini, Dhruv Shorey, Nishant Sidhu, Akash Vashisht, Vikas Mishra and Manan Vohra.

East Zone: Manoj Tiwary (Capt.), Abhishek Porel, Akash Deep, Sudip Kumar Gharami, Kumar Kushagra, Anustup Majumdar, Mukhtar Hussain, Manishankar Mura Singh, Shahbaz Nadeem, Nazim Siddiqui, Riyan Parag, Ishan Porel, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shantanu Mishra and Virat Singh.

Dhull. •FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

All eyes on Rahane, Shaw in West vs NE

Former has experienced players and the latter inexperienced local talent

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

After two years of truncated calendar due to the pandemic, a full-fledged Indian domestic cricket season (2022-23) is all set to get underway, with the Duleep Trophy quarterfinals between West Zone and North East Zone starting on Thursday at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

If reputations and pedigree stay true, this quarterfinal could well end up being a lop-sided contest in favour of West Zone.

The team has players with international and IPL experience – Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Rahul Tripathi, Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya, to name a few.

North East does not have the same luxury and comprises just inexperienced local talent. The selectors have not included professionals who play for the various North East teams in the other BCCI tournaments.

More than the result, all eyes will be on how West skipper Rahane and opener Shaw use the fixture to score runs and find a way back into the Test side.

"I'm looking forward to starting from zero again. We will see what happens in the future and I believe it is important to be in the moment and focus on what's in hand right now rather than focus on your future," said Rahane ahead of the match.

"You always get goosebumps when you go on the field and I always like that feeling. When you get that, you get the motivation, whether it is a domestic game or an international one," he added

The 34-year-old is back after suffering a hamstring injury during the IPL.

"The rehab was really good. It took me two months to get fit. I had to follow a strict diet and routine for those two months, but it was really good. I just want to be fit throughout the season and keep scoring runs," said Rahane.

The teams (from):

West Zone: Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Hardik Tamore (wk), Shams Mulani, Tanish Kotian, Rahul Tripathi, Satyajeet Bachhav, Het Patel, Chintan Gaja, Jaydev Unadkat, Chirag Jani, Atit Sheth and Chetan Sakariya.

North East Zone: Hokaito Zhimomi(Capt.), Jonathan Rongsen, Khrievitso Kense, Muhammed Al Bashid, L. Kishan Singha, Bishworjit Singh Konthoujam, Rajkumar Rex Singh, Ashish Thapa, Ankur Malik, Techi Neri, Techi Doria, Dippu Sangma, Kishan Lyngdoh, G. Lalbiakvela and Bobby Zothansanga.

Time to stretch it: Rahane will look to put his international career back on track. •M. PICHUMANI

Elgar treating series decider as a 'WC final'

REUTERS
LONDON

South Africa might make several changes to its side for its decisive third Test against England for what captain Dean Elgar said would be a "World Cup final" for his country.

"We are going into this Test is pretty much like a World Cup final for us. We're going to go in with a result in mind and we got to give our best effort for that," Elgar said on Wednesday.

Rassie van der Dussen has been ruled out of the Test with a fractured finger.

England named its playing XI, with Harry Brook set to make his Test debut.

The teams:

England XI: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Alex Lees, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Foakes (wk), Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson, Jack Leach and Jimmy Anderson.

South Africa (from): Dean Elgar (Capt.), Sarel Erwee, Keegan Petersen, Aiden Markram, Khaya Zondo, Ryan Rickelton, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi.

I try to provide guidance, says Anand

The legend elaborates on the role played by WACA in grooming talented players

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

With the teen trio of D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa busy making up for the time lost due to the pandemic and briskly climbing the rating ladder, Indian chess never had it this good.

If Gukesh and Arjun have joined Club 2700 in rating and currently figure in the world's top-25 list, Praggnanandhaa is closing in. Moreover, his online victories over Magnus Carlsen have contributed significantly to bringing in new followers for Indian chess.

The three, along with Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Leon Mendonca, R. Vaishali and the 15-year-old B. Savitha Shri, the latest recruit, are all part of the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA). Clearly the cream of India's talent is blooming under the mentorship of Anand and the five-time champion has every reason to feel elated. Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Anand elaborated on his role in grooming these handpicked players.

"I think we (at WACA) are just an extra layer of support. We try to take a lot of practical issues out of the way. I try to provide guidance that maybe even the coaches appreciate.

"The main relationship would still be between the coach and the player, because it's also personalised. Quite often, I work with the coaches R. B. Ramesh and Vishnu Prasanna. Thanks to the conversation I had with N. Srinath, we got Arjun (Erigaisi) in. During a chat with Shyam Sundar, he mentioned Savitha Shri and I thought that was a good idea. So I interact with them.

"If I cannot ask the player, I can even ask the coach, 'what do you think your player will need in the next tournament?' I will then see if I can arrange that material. So that sort of thing."

Ranked second behind Anand, Gukesh underplayed his massive leap of 112 rating points since March 1 to reach 2726 on September 1.

"The last couple of months have been great and I've improved a lot. I think it was the result of the hard work done during the pandemic. Also, I have been continuously working hard and my confidence has improved. The Olympiad gold (on the top board) was obviously a very special achievement. I do set goals, but the main one is to perform at my best every time."

Praggnanandhaa said he was not under any pressure of expectations despite his recent exploits. "I thank my family and Ramesh Sir for helping me (deal with the rising demands from the media and fans for his time) because they control everything. That helps me really focus on chess."

Special ones: Anand with Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa. •FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

Khachanov outslugs Kyrgios, makes semifinals

Jabeur creates history again; Garcia stops Gauff; Sabalenka enters the last four

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Karen Khachanov set up a U.S. Open semifinal duel with Casper Ruud on Tuesday when he battled past "devastated" Nick Kyrgios in a big-hitting five-setter, shattering the Australian's dreams of a maiden Grand Slam title.

Russian 27th seed Khachanov triumphed 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7(3), 6-4 over the Wimbledon runner-up to make the last-four at a Major for the first time.

Khachanov fired 30 aces and a total of 63 winners past Kyrgios. "I did it, guys. Finally, you are showing me some love," Khachanov told the mostly pro-Kyrgios crowd on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It was a crazy match I was expecting it would be like this. I'm ready to run, to fight to play five sets. We played almost four hours and that's the only way to beat Nick."

Kyrgios, who had knocked out defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the last-16, hit 31 aces in his 75 winners. However, his unforced error count of 58 was almost double the 31 of Khachanov.

'Devastated'

"I'm devastated. It's heartbreaking for me and everyone," said Kyrgios. "I feel like I have let so many people down."

In the women's section, Tunisia's Ons Jabeur became the first African woman in history to reach the semifinals of the Open as France's Caroline Garcia ended the hopes of American teenager Coco Gauff to advance to the last four.

Jabeur, who also claimed a notable first as the first woman from Africa to reach the final at Wimbledon, scored a 6-4, 7-6(4) win over Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic.

Tomljanovic had landed in the quarterfinals after a run which included a third round victory over Serena Williams, in what was most likely the 23-time Grand Slam champion's final singles match before retirement.

The 28-year-old will now face Garcia in the semifinals after the in-form 17th seed dispatched the 18-year-old Gauff 6-3, 6-4 in Tuesday's other quarterfinal.

Aryna Sabalenka reached the Open semifinals for a second successive year with a 6-1, 7-6(4) win over Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

Marathon man: Khachanov showed that he had the legs to last the distance. •AP

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 27-Khachanov bt 23-Kyrgios (Aus) 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7(3), 6-4.
Women: 17-Garcia (Fra) bt 12-Gauff (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 5-Jabeur (Tun) bt Tomljanovic (Aus) 6-4, 7-6(4); Aryna 6-Sabalenka bt 22-Pliskova (Cze) 6-1, 7-6(4).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs New Zealand: 2nd ODI, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.50 a.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Ten 1, 2, Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Diamond League: (final), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 10.30 p.m. onwards
US Open: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m. onwards (Friday)

IN BRIEF

RB Leipzig fires Tedesco

BERLIN

Domenico Tedesco was fired by German side RB Leipzig on Wednesday, a day after a 4-1 home thrashing by Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk in its opening Champions League group match. It comes months after he led it to German Cup success but a dreadful start to its league campaign. AFP

Anupama becomes junior World No. 1

NEW DELHI

Anupama Upadhyaya became only the second Indian shuttler in under-19 girls singles category to win the top title in the latest BWF junior rankings. The 17-year-old, who had won junior international titles in Uganda and Poland earlier this year, replaced fellow Indian Tasnim Mir from the top position on Tuesday. She jumped two places to grab the pole position with 18.060 points from 18 tournaments. PTI

Karnataka HC grants limited relief to Ballal

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court granted limited relief to former India hockey player Ashish Ballal, who had challenged the conduct of Thursday's Hockey Karnataka Executive Committee elections alleging that the electoral college was tampered with.

In response to a writ petition filed by Ballal, a single judge bench of Justice Krishna S. Dixit, on Wednesday, allowed the conduct of the election but ordered that the results of the same were not to be disclosed until the date of the next hearing.

Last month, Hockey Karnataka had rejected Ballal's nomination as the representative of Hockey Udupi citing disaffiliation of the district association for being "inactive" for long.

Sparkling start to campaign by Manchester City and PSG

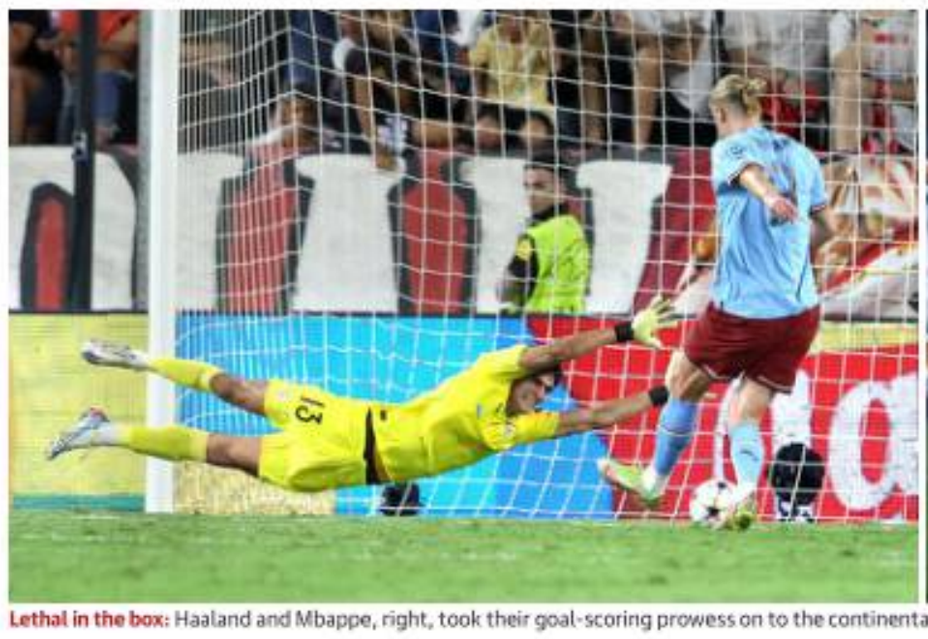
High-flying Haaland and Mbappe score a brace each; Dinamo Zagreb upend Chelsea; AC Milan held by Salzburg

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland took their high-flying scoring acts into Europe as the Champions League returned on Tuesday, while last season's standout star Karim Benzema limped off with an injury after less than 30 minutes.

Mbappe and Haaland both netted two goals as their respective clubs Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City began their European campaigns with victories, underlining just why those two teams are again among the favorites for the title.



Lethal in the box: Haaland and Mbappe, right, took their goal-scoring prowess on to the continental stage for Man City and PSG respectively. • AFP

Benzema injured

Real Madrid's chances of defending its crown probably depend largely on having a fully fit Benzema, but the France forward had to come off with an apparent knee injury in the 30th minute against Celtic.

Second-half goals from Vinicius Junior, Luka Modric and Eden Hazard still secured a 3-0 win for the Spanish giant in Glasgow.

Mbappe scored his double in the first 22 minutes of a 2-1 home win over Juventus to become the youngest player to reach 35 goals in the competition – beating the mark held by teammate Lionel Messi. The 22-year-old Haaland has 25 goals in 20 Champions League games – also a record – after scoring once in each half of Man City's 4-0 win at Sevilla. The Norway striker has now netted on his Champions League debut for three clubs – Salzburg, Borussia Dortmund and City.

Also, Dinamo Zagreb upset Chelsea 1-0 at home while Serie A champion AC Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at Salzburg.

The results: Group E: Dinamo Zagreb 1 (Orsic 13) bt Chelsea 0; RB Salzburg 1 (Okafor 28) drew with AC Milan 1 (Saelamaekers 40).

Group F: Celtic 0 lost to Real Madrid 3 (Vinicius 56, Modric 60, Hazard 77); RB Leipzig 1 (Simakan 57) lost to Shakhtar Donetsk 4 (Shved 16, 58, Mudryk 76, Traore 85).

Group G: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 35, Guerreiro 42, Bellingham 83) bt FC Copenhagen 0; Sevilla 0 lost to Manchester City 4 (Haaland 20, 67, Foden 58, Dias 90+2).

Group H: Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Mbappe 5, 22) bt Juventus 1 (McKennie 53); Benfica 2 (Silva 50, Grimaldo 54) bt Maccabi Haifa 0.

Chelsea sacks coach Tuchel after poor beginning to season

Pochettino, Potter among the early favourites for the job

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Chelsea on Wednesday sacked manager Thomas Tuchel just seven games into the new season, hours after it suffered a chastening Champions League defeat at Dinamo Zagreb.

The former Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain boss leaves Stamford Bridge after a tumultuous period at the club, which included a Champions League triumph and the end of Roman Abramovich's reign.

Chelsea said it would move "swiftly" to appoint a replacement, with former Tottenham and PSG boss Mauricio Pochettino and Brighton manager Graham Potter among the early favourites.

"On behalf of everyone at Chelsea FC, the club would like to place on record its gratitude to Thomas and his staff for all their efforts during their time with the club," the Premier League club said in a statement.

Thomas Tuchel. • AP

"Thomas will rightly have a place in Chelsea's history after winning the Champions League, the Super Cup and Club World Cup in his time here."

The Stamford Bridge club, bought by Todd Boehly's consortium in late May, defended the timing of the decision, which is understood to have been made before the loss in Croatia.

"As the new ownership group reaches 100 days since taking over the club, and as it continues its hard work to take the club forward, the new owners believe it is the right time to make this transition," the statement said.

Chelsea is sixth in the Premier League table after three wins, one draw and two defeats in their opening six matches – already five points behind leader Manchester City

Tuchel, who was in charge for less than 20 months at Chelsea, admitted "everything is missing" after its shock 1-0 defeat on Tuesday.

India brooks no resistance from Pakistan

Women begin SAAF title defence on winning note, extend unbeaten run to 27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Defending champion India blanked Pakistan 3-0 to make a winning start to its campaign at the SAFF Women's Championship football at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu here on Wednesday. The win extended India's unbeaten run to 27 matches in the championship.

An own goal from rival captain Maria Jamil Khan, and an opportunistic strike from Dangmei Grace in the first-half effectively settled the issue in favour of India. A late goal from Soumya Guguloth completed the rout in added time.

Defence splitting passes

The Blue Tigresses were dominant almost throughout, not much willing to part ways with the ball. They preferred to stretch it through the flanks, and Anu Tamang was omnipresent in the middle, essaying it to the strikers upfront with her defence splitting passes.

Joy unbound: Dangmei, jersey No. 11, celebrates with Anju after scoring India's second against Pakistan. • TWITTER/@INDIANFOOTBALL

However, despite the domination, the first goal that came India's way in the 15th minute was a rather lucky one.

Sandhiya, operating down the left, sent in a cross which goalkeeper Shahid Bukhari managed to get a hand to while diving to her left. The rebound hit onrushing Maria's leg and rolled into the net.

The second goal, nevertheless, came straight out of the drawing board.

Collecting the ball just outside the box, Anju, caught in between a jungle of legs, set it up for an unmarked Dangmei Grace with her left foot.

Grateful, Grace received it, and slipped it between Shahid and the near post to give India a 2-0 lead.

India came close to adding another in the 29th minute, but even as Ranjana's left footer beat Shahid under the bar, it hit the post.

Changing over, India earned its first corner in the 55th minute. Off the counter, Pakistan earned a free-kick outside the Indian box, but Indian goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan collected Maria's shot with effortless ease.

With the Indians pressing hard, Pakistan was not able to break the shackles and go all out into attack. Instead, it preferred to stay back and defend, with Zulfia Nazir waiting upfront around the centre circle.

Soumya made it 3-0 in added time, clinically finishing Ranjana's cross from the left. India next plays Maldives on September 10.

The result: India Women 3 (Maria Jamil Khan-og 21, Dangmei Grace 23, Soumya Gaguloth 90+4) bt Pakistan Women 0.

England recalls Hales for T20 WC

Hales. • FILE PHOTO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Alex Hales's long international exile is over after he was recalled to the England squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia as a replacement for the injured Jonny Bairstow.

The 33-year-old batter has not represented his country for three-and-a-half years, having been dumped on the eve of the 2019 World Cup in the aftermath of two failed recreational drug tests.

England squad for ICC Men's T20 WC and T20I series against Australia: Jos Buttler (Capt.) Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

T20 squad for tour of Pakistan: Buttler (Capt.), Moeen, Brook, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Liam Dawson, Richard Gleeson, Hales, Tom Helm, Will Jacks, Malan, Rashid, Salt, Olly Stone, Topley, Willey, Woakes, Luke Wood and Mark Wood.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Deshna does the double

Deshna M. Vanshika secured both the women's and under-17 girls' singles titles at the MS Ramaiah Memorial State-ranking table tennis tournament.

The results (finals): Men: Rakshit R. Barigidad bt Samarth Kurdikeri 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-4; **Women:** Deshna M. Vanshika bt Maria Rony 15-13, 11-9, 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 12-10.

U-19: Boys: K.J. Aakash bt Varun B.Kashyap 19-17, 11-13, 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9; **Girls:** Anargya Manjunath bt G. Karruna 11-8, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6, 11-4.

U-17: Boys: Rohith Shankar bt Varun B. Kashyap 12-10, 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; **Girls:** Deshna M. Vanshika bt Sahana H. Murthy 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-3.

Non-medallist singles: P. Yeshwanth bt Shubham Jain 11-8, 11-9, 11-9.

Champions all: The winners in the M.S. Ramaiah Memorial State-ranking table tennis tournament. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rishab hits ton in Vijaya CC's win

Rishab Manoj Thakur top-scored with 106 as Vijaya CC thrashed Bharath CC by 188 runs in the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Swastic Union CC (1) 225/2 in 34 overs (S. Gagan Rao 102, Vedant Arora 83 n.o.) bt Jawahar SC (2) 155/8 in 34 overs (Pradhan Tejomay 41, P. Abhinav 34) [Match revised to 34 overs per side because of wet outfield].

Vijaya CC 264/6 in 34 overs (Aniketh Reddy 70, Rishabh Manoj Thakur 106, Pranith Sai Prashanth 4/35) bt Bharath CC 76 in 32.3 overs (M. Jayan Samyog 29, Vaibhav Sharma 3/19, P.K. Prajishnav 3/15) [Match revised to 34 overs per side because of wet outfield].

Bhaskar overcomes Durlabh

B. Bhaskar survived a scare from qualifier Durlabh Sisodiya to win 4-3 (37-16, 22-41, 48-11, 42-09, 20-31, 35-36, 35-26) in a super league match of the Karnataka State-ranking 6Red snooker tournament here on Wednesday.

Nikhil scores two as Kickstart makes merry

Nikhil Raj scored a brace as Kickstart FC blanked Young Challengers 5-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league, here on Wednesday.

The results: Kickstart FC 5 (Prince Emeka Olariche 33, 75, Nikhil Raj Murugan Kumar 40, 78, Sarath Raj Kumar 51) bt Young Challengers FC 0; Roots FC 2 (R. Vishal 20, Anirudh Mukunthan 79) bt Bangalore Eagles FC 0.

Shabbir continues to lead

Shabbir Dhankot of Tamil Nadu extended his stay at the top with a total pinfall of 2436 at the end of day three of the 31st National Tenpin bowling championship here on Wednesday. At the end of the second block of six Round One games, defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar reclaimed second spot and trails Shabbir by two pins.

S. Sambhrant of Delhi rose to the third spot (2401).

Kuala Lumpur City trumps ATK MB

Second successive elimination at this stage of the tournament for the hosts

On a high: Kuala Lampur City players are over the moon after beating ATK MB. • DEBASISH BHADURI

AFC CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

ATK Mohun Bagan's attacking frailties were badly exposed as it lost 3-1 to Kuala Lumpur City FC in the AFC Cup inter-zonal semifinals here on Wednesday.

KL City FC's Brazilian captain Paulo Josue struck once (60th) and set up another for substitute Fakrul Aiman (90+3) with a brilliant free-kick.

Colombian forward Romel Morales came off the bench to hit the final nail in ATK Mohun Bagan's coffin (90+6) here.

Crumbling

ATK Mohun Bagan equalised in the 90th minute through substitute Fardin Ali Molla but it later crumbled in front of home supporters.

This is ATK MB's second successive elimination from the AFC Cup at the inter-zonal semifinal stage. In 2021, it endured a 6-0 humiliation against FC Nasaf.

KL City FC will now face Uzbekistan's PFC Sogdiana in the inter-zonal play-off final.

Reality check

It was a reality check for ATK Mohun Bagan coach Juan Ferrando ahead of the Indian Super League as the Spaniard has failed to put together a good offensive and defensive unit after the departure of Roy Krishna, David Williams, Sandesh Jhingan and Tiri.

Just a few days ago, Mohun Bagan made a shock group stage exit from the Durand Cup after losing to I-League side Rajasthan United FC.

The result: ATK MB 1 (Fardin Ali Molla 90) lost to KL City FC 3 (Paulo Josue 60, Fakrul Aiman 90+3, Romel Morales 90+6).

Neeraj Chopra starts favourite in Diamond League Finals

He had qualified for the mega event in 2017 and 2018, but will be eyeing his maiden crown this time

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ZURICH

Another historic feat awaits Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as he will start as favourite in the prestigious Diamond League Finals here on Thursday.

Neeraj had made a spectacular return from a one-month injury lay-off by winning the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League series and qualifying for the two-day finals here. He became the first Indian to clinch a Diamond League meet title.

The youngster from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana will be eyeing his maiden Diamond League Finals title. He had qualified for the Finals in 2017 and 2018 also, finishing seventh and fourth respectively.

Another milestone? Chopra had made a spectacular return from a one-month injury lay-off by winning the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League series. • REUTERS

The Diamond League encompasses 32 Diamond Disciplines, following a championship style model. Athletes earn points at the 13-series meet to qualify for the final of their respective disciplines. The winner of each Diamond Discipline at the Final will be crowned 'Diamond League Champion'.

The six-man javelin throw field here will be without world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who is recovering from injuries after he was assaulted inside a boat in his country last month.

Biggest rival

Neeraj's biggest rival will be the Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic whom the Indian had beaten in Lausanne also.

Meanwhile, pole vault king Mondo Duplantis has vowed to bring his enthralling season to a more satisfactory end after suffering a rare defeat in Brussels last week.